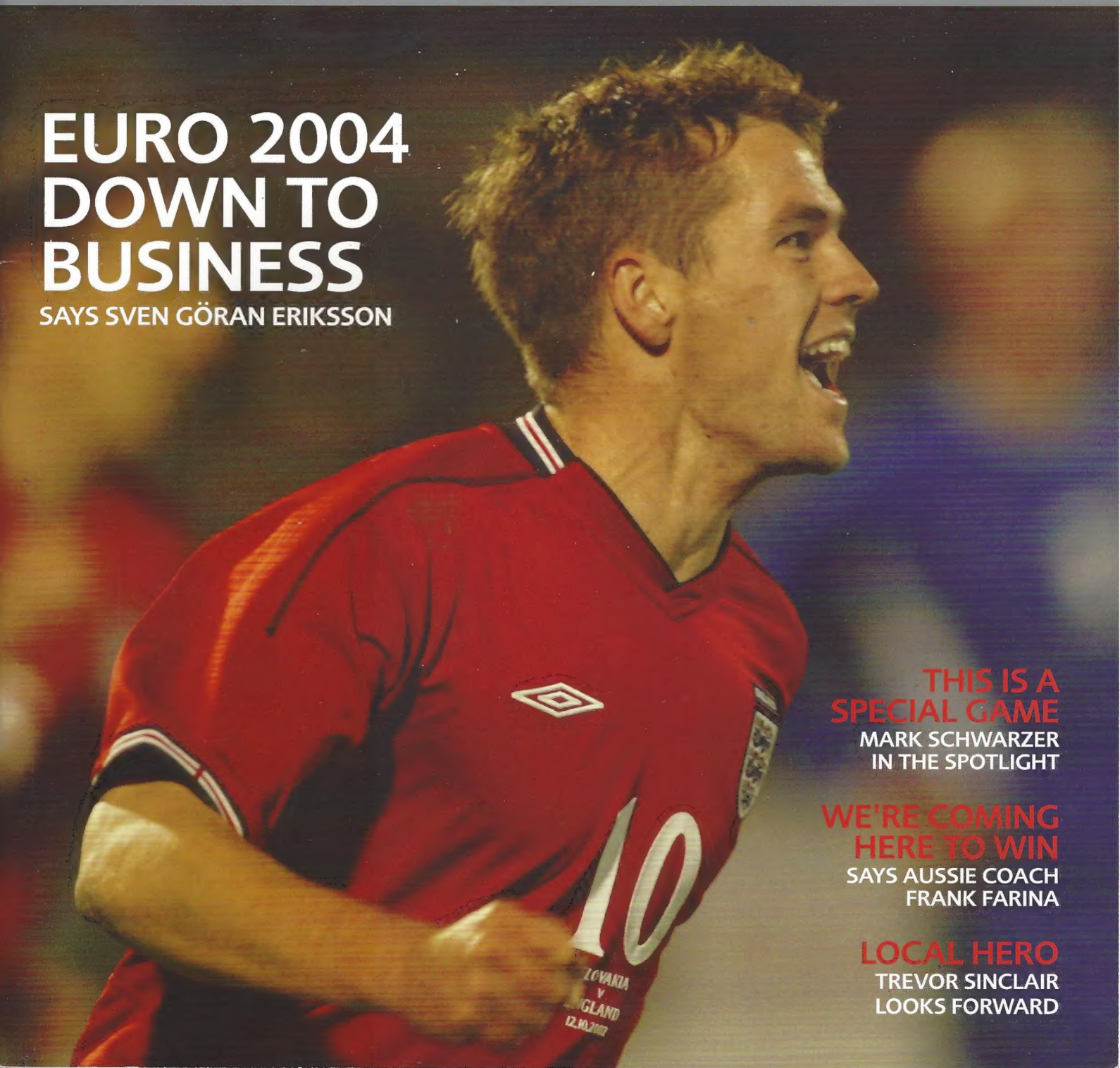
ENGLAND

V AUSTRALIA
8.00PM WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2003
BOLEYN GROUND, UPTON PARK

£4 OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

TheFA.com



EURO 2004 DOWN TO BUSINESS
SAYS SVEN GÖRAN ERIKSSON

THIS IS A SPECIAL GAME
MARK SCHWARZER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WE'RE COMING HERE TO WIN
SAYS AUSSIE COACH FRANK FARINA

LOCAL HERO
TREVOR SINCLAIR LOOKS FORWARD

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The FA COMMUNITY PARTNER

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Eight of the England mascots for tonight's game have been chosen from the junior members of englandfans, The Official England Supporters Club. We would like to welcome them all to Upton Park.

A **Nathan Crosbie** 10, from Surrey, supports Manchester United
B **Sophie Howard** 9, from Stafford, supports Everton
C **Jamie Smith** 9, from Berkshire, supports Chelsea and England
D **Lauren Ryan** 9, from Middlesex, supports Manchester United
E **Matthew Harris** 9, from Derby, supports Newcastle United and Derby County
F **Jacob MacDonald** 6, from Hanworth, supports Arsenal
G **Luke White** 11, from Oxford, supports Oxford United
H **Joseph Geraghty** 9, from Essex, supports Colchester United

If you are interested in joining englandfans, please log on to **www.TheFA.com**

ENGLAND

TIMETABLE

18:00	**Turnstiles Open** Selection of Music General Announcements
19:15	**Players Warm-up**
19:45	**National Flag Bearers Parade**
19:51	**The teams enter the arena** FIFA Fair Play Flag to lead procession
19:54	**Presentation of the teams** to Chief Guest Trevor Brooking, CBE and representatives of The Football Association and Soccer Australia
19:56	**National Anthems – Raise the Flag** Fair Play Handshake & Coin Toss
20:00	**Kick-off: England v Australia**
20:45	Half Time
21:00	Second Half
21:45	End of match

No extra time, kicks from the penalty mark or post match presentations

Patron **HM The Queen**
President **HRH The Duke of York, CVO, ADC**
Chairman **Geoff Thompson**
Acting Chief Executives **Nic Coward and David Davies**
Chief Guest **Trevor Brooking, CBE**

International Committee
N. White FSCA (Chairman), D.G. Richards (Vice-Chairman), P.R. Barnes, R.D. Coar, P. Coates, D.B. Dein, H.D. Ellis, J.M. Elsom, C.B. Taylor, G. Thompson, J.F. Wiseman

Emergency Procedure
In the event of an emergency affecting public safety, listen for announcements over the public address system, and follow the instructions of stewards and police officers.

Mind your language
The Football Association will not tolerate foul language or any abusive, offensive or racist chanting at England matches either home or away. In co-operation with the relevant authorities, every effort will be made to identify those who do not adhere to this policy. In such cases action may be taken through the Courts.

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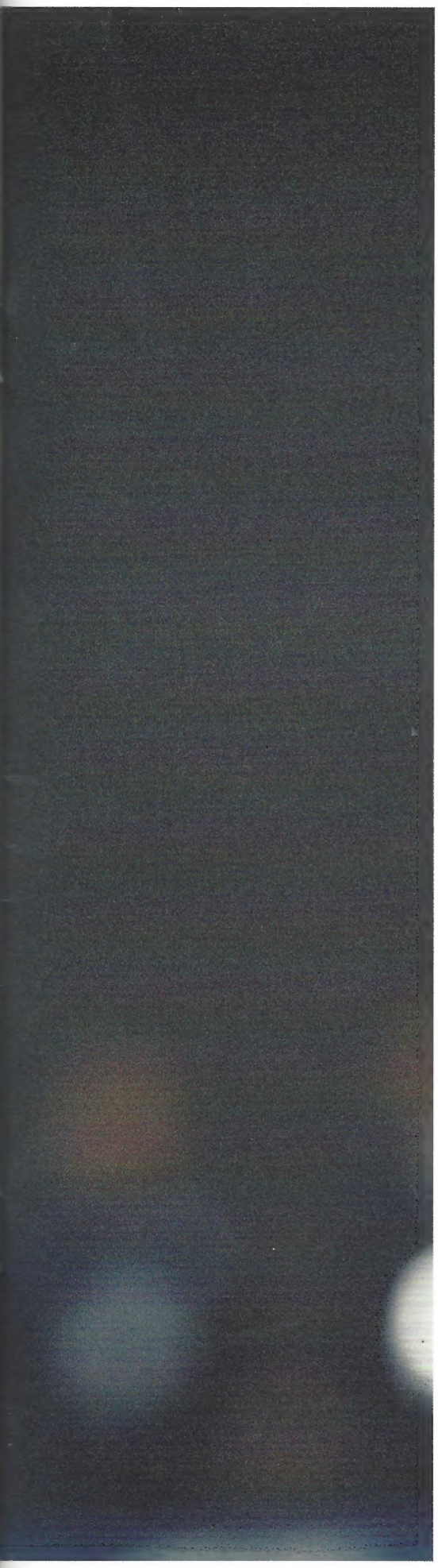

Friends and Allies

I have pleasure in extending a warm welcome to our visitors from Soccer Australia to Upton Park for the first friendly international on English soil between England and Australia.

Soccer Australia is a relative newcomer to the international football family having been founded in 1961, almost 100 years after The FA. The Socceroos count their 1974 appearance at the World Cup Finals in the former West Germany as one of their first major national team performances in Europe. Most recently, they narrowly missed appearing in the 2002 World Cup Finals in the Far East after losing a two-leg play-off to Uruguay.

The Australian climate and way of life reflects a passion for sport, with football fast becoming one of the nation's favourite pastimes. Australia now boasts a strong team featuring several players who compete in our own Premiership and whose experience will undoubtedly contribute a fair test for Sven Göran Eriksson's side in the run up to the European Championship qualifying matches in the spring.

England will be looking to put the disappointment of October's home draw with Macedonia behind them and get 2003 off to the perfect start. A crucial match against Turkey awaits in April and Sven and his team will be keen to combine the determination and professionalism displayed in Slovakia with the confident football they showed in the World Cup campaign.

On behalf of The FA, may I close by extending our thanks to West Ham United Football Club for hosting this evening's historic match and for putting the excellent Upton Park facilities at our disposal.

GEOFF THOMPSON CHAIRMAN, THE FA

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Boleyn Ground for this evening's friendly between England and Australia. This is the first time in West Ham United's history that the club has been chosen by The Football Association to host a full international and the first time Australia has played a senior game against England in this country.

However, this is not the first time West Ham United has hosted an international game. On 12th December 2002 an England Under-20 team, containing our own Glen Johnson, played Switzerland Under-20s in a friendly. Before that, on Friday, 9th October 1998, the club hosted an Under-21 international when England played Bulgaria and in April 1982, England Under-21s played their Polish counterparts in the second-leg of a UEFA Championship quarter-final tie.

I couldn't be more delighted that this evening's game is at full international level because West Ham United has played a vital part in the development of several of the present crop of England stars through our Youth Academy, including Frank Lampard, Rio Ferdinand, Joe Cole and Michael Carrick; not forgetting David James and Trevor Sinclair who were members of the England World Cup squad.

We are very proud of the new Dr. Martens Stand and the magnificent facilities it offers, including the West Ham United Quality Hotel. Indeed the Boleyn Ground is now recognised as one of the finest stadia in the Premiership and presents the perfect setting for this full international.

I trust you will enjoy what is a special occasion for us all at West Ham United.

TERENCE BROWN CHAIRMAN, WEST HAM UNITED

Sven's view

It seems a long time since England last played an international match and I have very much enjoyed working with my squad again this week.

Now it really is a case of getting back down to business for the players and me as the road to the European Championship unfolds before us. If we want to qualify for Portugal, preferably by winning our Group, then we need to get the results that count. Our preparation starts right here at Upton Park in a game that I am really looking forward to.

The World Cup in the Far East was a brilliant experience, a wonderful football party. I enjoyed everything about it every day, apart from the moment when we were knocked out. I think all the England staff and players felt the same way. Now, it is my dream to do it all again in Portugal – but to go further this time, because that is the biggest thing you can do in football.

We have excellent opposition this evening in the form of Australia, a country whose progress I have monitored with great interest over the last few years. They are one of the nations quickly catching up with the others and, in years to come, I think we can expect them to be a significant force in world football. Australia is a huge country and football is very important there, so they are beginning to knock loudly on the doors of the best teams. We know a few of their players well, of course, from their time in the Premiership, so our defenders will need little reminding of all the potential threats they will be facing. Harry Kewell, in particular, is player I admire – it's only a pity he isn't English!

I am certainly not expecting an easy game this evening. Historical connections between the two countries go back a long way and I know that Australia are always very keen to beat England . . . no matter what sport is involved.

This match is also the first occasion on which I have been able to work with my new coach, Brian Kidd, and I've already been greatly impressed by what I have seen of him on the training pitch. As you know, I was a great admirer of Steve McClaren so it could only have been someone of Brian's calibre; someone with his credentials and experience, who could have stepped up to fill the gap left by Steve's departure.

I'm also very happy to be bringing England to the home of West Ham. It was here at Upton Park that I saw my first game in the Premiership as England coach. I will never forget the encouraging reception I got that day – one which has since been replicated all over the country.

I hope we get the game and result we are hoping for as we prepare for the forthcoming Euro Qualifiers, in Liechtenstein next month, and against Turkey at Sunderland on 2nd April.

It is always with great pride that I send out any team to play for England. Thank you for your continued support – and enjoy the game.

Sven Göran Eriksson

"I know that Australia are always very keen to beat England . . . no matter what sport is involved."

"I'm very happy to be bringing England to the home of West Ham. It was here at Upton Park that I saw my first game in the Premiership as England coach. I will never forget the encouraging reception I got that day – one which has since been replicated all over the country."

Testing Times Down Under

The first football international between Australia and England was played at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 31st May 1980, a match played in honour of the Centenary of the original Australian Association.

A week earlier Ron Greenwood's England had beaten Scotland 2-0 at Hampden Park, but only two members of that victorious team – Trevor Cherry and Paul Mariner – would turn out in Sydney. Subsequently, the fixture presented the boss with an opportunity to look at a few of his fringe players and debuts were awarded to Russell Osman, Terry Butcher, Alan Sunderland, David Armstrong and, as substitute, Peter Ward.

Although the hosts put up a gritty and determined showing, England proved too strong for them. The first half was dominated by the Three Lions' midfield – Brian Talbot, Bryan Robson, Glenn Hoddle and Armstrong. Hoddle opened the scoring on 20 minutes, then Butcher set up Paul Mariner for the second in the 24th. England then sat on the lead, allowing the Australians to force the pace without actually gaining control and skipper Cherry did a good job marshalling his troops. With two minutes left Gary Cole netted a penalty for Australia, but England held on to win 2-1.

In June 1983, Bobby Robson's England made a summer excursion Down Under, playing three games in eight days against the Australians. Again, many English players were unavailable and seven debuts were handed out during the tour.

The first 'Test Match' in Sydney was instantly forgettable. England's only real chance came in the 90th minute when John Gregory headed wide from Gordon Cowans' cross. England had earlier dominated possession in attacks that repeatedly failed in the final third. All credit to Australia for their effort but the game was a dour one. "It was a long way to come for a 0-0 draw," as one England fan reflected ruefully.

Three days later the two teams met again, at Lang Park in Brisbane. The game was a much better one with England going some way to repairing their reputation. But for Terry Greedy in the home goal, Australia might have been swamped. The heroic 'keeper produced save after save as the visitors threw everything forward. Paul Walsh and Trevor Francis (pictured) struck up an excellent partnership whilst Phil Neal was virtually an extra forward as England attacked relentlessly. Time and again Greedy blocked goalbound efforts and for all their first half pressure England could not break through. The second half continued in much the same vein until, in the 57th minute, the Three Lions finally broke the deadlock. Luther Blissett centred from the right but both Walsh and Butcher missed the ball. Gregory retrieved it and crossed from the left. This time Walsh was on hand to score the only goal of the game.

The teams moved on to Melbourne's Olympic Stadium to fight out the last and best of the three encounters, which was also drawn with the honours going to the Australians. England dominated early on and goalie Greedy again kept the Socceroos in the match. In the 19th minute, though, Cowans hit a free-kick in to Francis and the Sampdoria-based striker tucked a fine shot wide of Greedy. Australia continued to battle for everything and eight minutes later were rewarded with an equaliser.

Good work by Charlie Yankos and Ken Murphy gave Joe Watson possession on the right. When the cross came in, the ball struck Neal and deflected past Peter Shilton. The home crowd went wild and the game ebbed and flowed with chances at both ends, the best falling to England when the referee awarded a 73rd minute penalty. Francis beat Greedy, but an infringement meant a retake. Much to the delight of the Melbourne crowd, Francis blasted his second attempt over the bar.

The fifth meeting came in June 1991 at the start of England's tour of the Southern Hemisphere, with arguably the strongest Three Lions squad to visit that part of the world. Again the Socceroos gave a good account of themselves, showing much of the obvious progress made in the interim years. Their skill and effort frustrated England and Chris Woods had to be at his best in goal. The only goal came on 40 minutes when Stuart Pearce whipped in a dangerous free-kick and Australia's Ian Gray had the misfortune to head the ball past his own 'keeper. Not the best way to settle a game, but they all count and Graham Taylor was happy with his side's display.

Mike Payne

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STEVE WORRALL
ENGLAND

SALES

International Appearances	34
% Wembley turf in garden	5%
Hours on hold for finals tickets	6
Time deciding best goal ever	4 Carlsbergs

ENGLAND OFFICIAL BEER

Carlsberg

Probably the best supporter in the world.

OFFICIAL BEER OF THE ENGLAND TEAM

Local Heroes

From George Webb to Trevor Sinclair, 30 players have made West Ham and England connections since 1911.

George Webb was West Ham's first England representative. A fine centre forward and the stepson of director George Hare, he scored on his international debut in the 3-0 victory over Wales at The Den in March 1911 and retained his place for the 1-1 draw against Scotland at Goodison Park three weeks later.

Centre-forward **Vic Watson** also netted on his England debut – in the 2-2 draw against Wales in March 1923. Capped five times while at Upton Park, he was leading marksman as West Ham won promotion and reached the FA Cup Final in 1923. He scored six times against Leeds United in February 1929 and netted a record 42 First Division goals in 1929-30. Watson set a club record 298 goals in 462 League games overall before reuniting with George Kay at Southampton in June 1935.

Watson was one of six members of West Ham's 1923 FA Cup Final team who gained England honours while at the club. Tough-tackling left-half **Jack Tresadern** made his international debut alongside Watson as England drew 2-2 against Scotland in April 1923. Tresadern also played in the 4-2 win over Sweden the following month when inside-right **Billy Moore** scored on his sole international appearance. Moore netted 42 goals in 181 League games for the Hammers and was the club's trainer for 31 years.

Versatile inside-right **Billy Brown** scored on his international debut in England's 2-2 draw against Belgium in November 1923. Long-serving goalkeeper **Ted Hufton** gained the first of six England caps in that match and faced Scotland's immortal 'Wembley Wizards' when they famously defeated England 5-1 in March 1928. Hufton made 371 League appearances during 13 seasons at West Ham prior to joining Watford in June 1932 following the Hammers' relegation back to the Second Division.

Long-serving outside-left **Jimmy Ruffell** was ever-present for West Ham in 1924-25 and gained the first of six England caps in the 1-0 defeat of Scotland in April 1926. He netted 159 goals in a then-club record 505 League games prior to joining Aldershot in August 1937. Creative inside-right **Stan Earle** followed England international Viv Gibbins from Clapton to West Ham and gained his second cap in the 2-0 defeat of Ireland in October 1927.

Colourful centre-half **Jim Barrett** made his sole international appearance in England's 3-0 win over Ireland in October 1928. 'Big Jim' was injured after just four minutes in what remains the shortest-ever international career for a player starting a match for England. His son 'Young Jim' Barrett played for West Ham in the early Fifties.

Local born inside-left **Len Goulden** formed an outstanding partnership with Jimmy Ruffell and he scored on his international debut in England's 6-0 victory over Norway in Oslo in May 1937. He was capped 14 times while at Upton Park and helped West Ham to beat Blackburn Rovers in the 1940 Football League War Cup final at Wembley. Flying outside-left **Johnny Morton** scored on his sole international appearance in England's thrilling 5-4 win over Czechoslovakia in December 1937.

Long-serving centre-half **Ken Brown** became West Ham's first post-war England international when he featured in the 2-1 victory over Northern Ireland at Wembley in November 1959. Twice ever-present, he was an influential figure as the Hammers became Second Division champions in 1957-58. Brown netted four goals in 386 League games while at Upton Park before following John Bond to Frank O'Farrell's Torquay United in May 1967.

Brown, whose son Kenny also played for West Ham, was one of four members of the Hammers' 1964 FA Cup winning team to gain England recognition while at the club and also featured in their 1965 European Cup Winners' Cup Final triumph as well as the 1966 League Cup Final. England international centre-forward **Johnny Byrne** gained all but the first of his 11 caps while at West Ham. 'Budgie' netted 79 goals in 156 First Division games before rejoining Crystal Palace in February 1967.

Legendary central defender **Bobby Moore** collected the first of his club record 108 England caps in the 4-0 win over Peru in May 1962 and was a surprise selection for the Three Lions 1962 World Cup squad. He skippered West Ham's 1964 FA Cup and 1965 European Cup Winners' Cup Final triumphs, then captained England's 1966 World Cup Final success. A blond colossus at the heart of the Hammers defence for over 16 seasons, he netted 24 goals in 544 First Division games prior to joining Fulham in March 1974.

West Ham also supplied two other members of England's 1966 World Cup winning team. Hat-trick hero **Geoff Hurst** was another important figure as the Hammers won the 1964 FA Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1965 and then reached the League Cup Final in '66. Gaining 49 caps while at Upton Park, Sir Geoff topped West Ham's goalscoring charts in six consecutive seasons and netted 180 times in 411 League outings before moving to Stoke City in August 1972.

Considered to be 'ten years ahead of his time' by none other than England manager Sir Alf Ramsey, versatile midfielder **Martin Peters** also scored in the 1966 World Cup Final. He made up for the disappointment of being left out of West Ham's 1964 FA Cup winning side by starring in their 1965 European Cup Winners' Cup Final success at Wembley. Gaining the first 33 of his 67 caps while at Upton Park, he netted 81 goals in 302 First Division games for the Hammers prior to joining Spurs in a record £200,000 deal in March 1970.

Long-serving left-back **Frank Lampard** (Snr) made his international debut in England's 1-1 draw against Yugoslavia in October 1972. He was a key figure as West Ham lifted the FA Cup in 1975 and 1980, were European Cup Winners' Cup finalists in 1976, then won the Second Division title and were League Cup finalists in 1981. Gaining his second cap in England's 2-1 win over Australia in May 1980, he netted 18 goals in 551 League games before reuniting with Bobby Moore, at Southend United, in August 1985.

Influential midfielder **Trevor Brooking** gained the first of his 47 England caps in the 0-0 draw against Portugal in April 1974; Sir Alf Ramsey's last match in charge. Brooking featured prominently as West Ham twice lifted the FA Cup, heading the winning goal in 1980, and were European Cup Winners' Cup finalists in 1976. He also starred as they won the Second Division title in 1980-81 and scored 88 times in 528 League games while at Upton Park. He made his final appearance for England against host nation Spain at the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Apart from stalwarts Lampard and Brooking, two other members of West Ham's 1980 FA Cup winning side gained England recognition while at Upton Park. Former Hammers manager Ron Greenwood gave skilful midfielder **Alan Devonshire** the first of his eight England caps

	Caps at West Ham	Total caps	Seasons capped while at West Ham
Jim Barrett	1	(1)	1928-29
Trevor Brooking	47	(47)	1973-82
Billy Brown	1	(1)	1923-24
Ken Brown	1	(1)	1959-60
Johnny Byrne	10	(11)	1962-66
Michael Carrick	2	(2)	2000-02
Joe Cole	8	(8)	2000-03
Tony Cottee	3	(7)	1986-88
Alan Devonshire	8	(8)	1979-84
Stan Earle	1	(2)	1927-28
Rio Ferdinand	10	(28)	1997-01
Paul Goddard	1	(1)	1981-82
Len Goulden	14	(14)	1936-39
Ted Hufton	6	(6)	1923-29
Geoff Hurst	49	(49)	1965-72
David James	6	(10)	2001-03
Frank Lampard (Snr)	2	(2)	1972-80
Frank Lampard (Jnr)	2	(7)	1999-01
Alvin Martin	17	(17)	1980-87
Billy Moore	1	(1)	1922-23
Bobby Moore	**108**	**(108)**	**1961-74**
Johnny Morton	1	(1)	1937-38
Stuart Pearce	2	(78)	1999-00
Martin Peters	33	(67)	1965-70
Jimmy Ruffell	6	(6)	1925-30
Trevor Sinclair	10	(10)	2001-03
Jack Tresadern	2	(2)	1922-23
Vic Watson	5	(5)	1922-30
George Webb	2	(2)	1910-11
Ian Wright	2	(33)	1998-99

in the 1-1 draw against Northern Ireland in May 1980, then handed long-serving central defender **Alvin Martin** his international debut in the 1-0 defeat by Brazil at Wembley in May 1981.

Striker **Paul Goddard** was another key figure as West Ham won promotion and were League Cup finalists in 1980-81. He scored on his sole international appearance as England drew 1-1 against Iceland in June 1982. Fellow striker **Tony Cottee** starred as West Ham finished third in the top-flight in 1985-86, gaining the first three of his seven England caps before moving to Everton in August 1988. He rejoined the Hammers in September 1994 and overall netted 115 goals in 279 League games for the club.

Outstanding central defender **Rio Ferdinand** made his international debut in England's 2-0 win over Cameroon in November 1997 and gained a further nine caps while at West Ham, before being sold to Leeds United for a record £18 million in November 2000. England striker **Ian Wright** won the last two of his 33 caps after joining the Hammers from Arsenal in July 1998, while former Nottingham Forest left-back **Stuart Pearce** made the last two of his 78 England appearances while at the Boleyn Ground.

Midfielder **Frank Lampard** (Jnr) captained the England Under-21s and made his full international debut against Belgium in October 1999. He netted 23 goals in 148 Premiership games under his father and uncle Harry Redknapp while at Upton Park and gained a second England cap prior to joining Chelsea for £11 million in July 2001. Current West Ham favourites **Michael Carrick**, **Joe Cole**, **David James** and **Trevor Sinclair** have also been capped by England under Sven Göran Eriksson.

Leigh Edwards

West Ham and England Legend Geoff Hurst

Here are 20 fascinating facts ...

1. Geoff was born in Ashton-under-Lyne on 8th December 1941
2. His father played for Bristol Rovers, Oldham and Rochdale before joining Chelmsford City and moving the family to Essex when Geoff was six
3. At 15, Geoff joined West Ham's groundstaff – and spent his first summer painting the grandstand!
4. An outstanding schoolboy cricketer, he played for Essex's Second XI. He was selected for his only first class match in '62, notching figures of 0 and 0 not-out!
5. He made his West Ham debut at left-half in a 3-1 defeat at Nottingham Forest in February 1960. Ron Greenwood later converted him into an attacker
6. Hurst's Hammers strike partner was Johnny 'Budgie' Byrne. They bagged 193 goals between them in four seasons
7. Geoff scored for the Hammers in their 3-2 win against Preston North End in the 1964 FA Cup Final.
8. In 1965 Geoff played in West Ham's European Cup Winners' Cup Final victory over TSV Munich 1860
9. Alf Ramsey gave Geoff his England debut in a pre-World Cup friendly on 23rd February 1966, against West Germany
10. Geoff scored his first England goal on his second appearance – a 4-3 win against Scotland at Hampden Park
11. Geoff sat out the three group matches of the '66 World Cup as the experienced Greaves and Hunt combination filled the forward roles. Greaves' injury gave Geoff his chance. He headed the only goal of the quarter-final victory over Argentina and retained his place for the semi-final and Final
12. A first half header, a controversial extra-time strike and a late powerhouse drive earned Geoff a famous hat-trick and footballing immortality as England defeated West Germany 4-2 to become World Champions
13. West Ham beat Sunderland 8-0 in 1968 with Geoff scoring six times, matching Vic Watson's half-a-dozen in a match for the Hammers 39 years earlier
14. Geoff went on to play for England until 1972 and appeared in the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico
15. His 49th and last cap was collected, ironically, against West Germany at Wembley
16. 24 goals puts Geoff 11th in England's leading goalscorers table
17. In August 1972, Geoff was transferred to Stoke after 502 games and 252 goals for the Hammers. He later played for West Brom, Cape Town City, Cork Celtic and Seattle Sounders
18. Geoff became player/coach at Telford United in 1976
19. He spent five years as an England coach under Ron Greenwood. He also managed Chelsea and coached in Kuwait
20. Already an MBE, Geoff was knighted in 1998

Geoff made his West Ham debut at left-half against Forest in 1960.

The ace marksman scored his first England goal on his second appearance – against Scotland.

Geoff scored six times in West Ham's 8-0 walloping of Sunderland in 1968.

The Power of Football

Who says the romance of the Cup is dead? Every New Year, Customer Relations at The FA is inundated with a flood of calls from brides to be following a New Year's Eve proposal. Keen to avoid conflict with the future groom the question they're all asking is: 'What's the date of next year's FA Cup Final?' Obviously the festive period brings out the romantic side in football supporters across the country.

For the rest of the year, it's very much down to the business of football. On average Customer Relations deals with approximately 90,000 calls and e-mails a year on a vast range of subjects . Whether you want to know about disciplinary decisions or supporting England, from the controversial to the bizarre, Customer Relations at The FA should be your first point of call for all things football.

And, for all of those of you out there who took the plunge this New Year, congratulations from everyone at The FA, and in case you didn't already know, The FA Cup final this year is at 3pm on 17th May.

For a copy of The FA's Customer Charter or other enquiries e-mail info@thefa.com or telephone 020 7745 4776.

Putting something back...

In the crowd today are Leon Francis, Julian Breedy, Emiliano Croni and Keith Neville, some of the most recent graduates of the Goals Project – a scheme being run by the Park Royal Partnership, a regeneration agency based in West London.

The Goals Project was the brainchild of Paul Lakin following a recent visit to the States. The idea was simple but hugely successful, baseball clubs were using the attraction of the sport in the local community to persuade young people to get involved in a life-skills programme. Football is a true leveller with a unique appeal that provides a common language the world over.

You only have to look at The 2002 FIFA World Cup to see how football can lift the mood of nations. It is difficult to imagine what else could attract 1.5 million South Koreans to the streets of Seoul or transfix 18 million English to the television at 7.30 in the morning.

It is with this in mind that Paul decided to generate interest for the concept back home, and with the support of the London Development Agency, The Goals Project was born.

The Scheme takes young adults from West London and guides them through a six week project of life skills. Its overriding aim is to encourage and motivate candidates to enter full time employment or education whilst using football's undoubted universal appeal. It has long been accepted that football has a wider reaching social role and this project epitomises everything The FA believes can be achieved through football. The six week courses are run by professional trainers and private sector volunteers and combine classroom studies with weekly football coaching in QPR's stadium plus visits to high profile organisations including The FA and BBC Sport.

The Goals Project initially sent a speculative e-mail through The FA's website and the relationship between the two organisations has since gone from strength to strength. Candidates spend a day with members of staff at FA headquarters in Soho Square. Here they find out about the organisation and its role in football, more importantly, they have a chance to find out about the opportunities available to anyone interested in getting involved in the sport. They also get an opportunity to do what for most fans, is just a dream, following in the footsteps of some great names in football and lifting the FA Cup. Plans are also afoot to create a work experience scheme for graduates from the project within The FA. The icing on the cake, however, came with surprise visits from the England Manager, Sven Göran Eriksson and Acting FA Chief Executive, David Davies, at the recent graduation ceremony in Soho Square. Sven was on hand to give the candidates their graduation certificates. He also gave them an insight into his early days as a 'not so successful defender' in the Swedish second division and how he found the inspiration that drove him to the success and world-wide recognition he's achieved as a manager. Sven was visibly taken aback by the courage shown by the graduates as they made their graduation speeches in front of an audience of sporting celebrities.

Everyone at The FA would like to congratulate Leon, Julian, Emiliano and Keith and all involved with The Goals Project on their tremendous achievement.

If you would like any further information on The Goals Project please contact Bill Feeney on 020 8621 6321/6304

Jonathan Arana

Sven was on hand to give the candidates their graduation certificates

ENGLAND

Team England

GOALKEEPERS

DAVID SEAMAN ARSENAL
BORN 19.09.63 75 CAPS
England's most experienced current international, David is now three-quarters of the way to a century of caps. He was Sven Göran Eriksson's first choice in the Number 1 jersey for the most recent European Championship qualifiers against Slovakia and Macedonia. Of late, he has also aided Arsenal in their quest for further honours as they sit proudly at the top of the Premiership. Formerly with Leeds, Peterborough, Birmingham and QPR.

DAVID JAMES WEST HAM UNITED
BORN 01.08.70 10 CAPS
The Hammers star last wore the Three Lions jersey in the friendly draw with Portugal at Villa Park in September. Surprisingly, perhaps, considering he has been on the international scene since 1997. That match at Villa marked only his tenth full cap. David joined West Ham from Aston Villa in July 2001, having previously starred for Liverpool who snapped him up from his hometown club, Watford.

PAUL ROBINSON LEEDS UNITED
BORN 15.10.79 0 CAPS
The former Under-21 international 'keeper has been on the verge of a senior call-up since joining the Three Lions squad for the friendly against Portugal in September 2002, but he has still to make the big breakthrough. Perhaps his opportunity will arrive under the Upton Park floodlights this evening.

DEFENDERS

SOL CAMPBELL ARSENAL
BORN 18.09.74 52 CAPS
Sol missed out on the first of 2002's Euro qualifiers against Slovakia, but he was back in the heart of defence against Macedonia in October. A Double winner with the Gunners in 2001-02, he and his Highbury team-mates are seeking high honours again this time around. Sol made his England debut against Hungary in May 1996.

RIO FERDINAND MANCHESTER UNITED
BORN 08.11.78 28 CAPS
Rio's career blossomed at the West Ham Academy and he developed into a supreme performer in the famous claret and blue. Then came a move to Leeds before that £30 million transfer to Manchester United. He made his full England debut against Cameroon at Wembley in 1997 and has since appeared a further 27 times in the Three Lions strip. He will be hoping to increase his caps tally on his old stamping ground.

ASHLEY COLE ARSENAL
BORN 20.12.80 16 CAPS
Ashley has worn the left-back shirt in the last eight England matches, a run which suggests that Sven Göran Eriksson may have resolved his selection problems in that troublesome position. The pacy Arsenal man first appeared in a full international against Albania in 2001.

DANNY MILLS LEEDS UNITED
BORN 18.05.77 13 CAPS
Danny started out with his hometown club Norwich City and was snapped up for £350,000 by Charlton Athletic in March 1998. He developed into a wonderful prospect at The Valley and in the summer of '99 he moved to Leeds in a £4.3 million transfer. He played throughout the World Cup Finals campaign last summer.

WAYNE BRIDGE SOUTHAMPTON
BORN 05.08.80 9 CAPS
Saints star who proved one of England's more effective performers in the meeting with Macedonia at his home stadium last October. Wayne made his full England debut eight months earlier in the friendly draw in Holland. He later travelled to the World Cup Finals and made substitute appearances versus Argentina and Nigeria.

GARETH SOUTHGATE MIDDLESBROUGH
BORN 03.09.70 51 CAPS
Gareth broke through the 50 caps barrier when playing against Portugal at Villa Park last September. His 51st cap was awarded against Slovakia in Bratislava the following month. A great favourite at 'Boro's Riverside Stadium, Gareth previously played for Crystal Palace and Aston Villa.

JONATHAN WOODGATE NEWCASTLE UNITED
BORN 22.01.80 4 CAPS
Jonathan played in the last three England internationals – as a sub against Portugal and in the starting line-ups against Slovakia and Macedonia. The game against Portugal at Villa Park marked a milestone for the former Leeds player. It had been three years since his previous England appearance against Bulgaria.

MIDFIELDERS

DAVID BECKHAM MANCHESTER UNITED
BORN 02.05.75 56 CAPS
David scored in the last two European Championship qualifiers, with a free-kick against Slovakia and a chip over Macedonia's goalkeeper. He has also been in fine form for United in their latest quest for silverware and medals. Meanwhile, the off-field life of England's captain continues to fascinate.

KIERON DYER NEWCASTLE UNITED
BORN 29.12.78 13 CAPS
Blessed with incredible pace and bags of talent, Kieron started out with his hometown team Ipswich from where he joined Newcastle in a £6 million transfer in July 1999. The exuberant Magpie last displayed his talents in England's colours as a substitute against Slovakia.

TREVOR SINCLAIR WEST HAM UNITED
BORN 02.03.73 10 CAPS
A great West Ham favourite, Trevor was the England player with the most airmiles when shuttling back and forth between England and the Far East ahead of last summer's World Cup Finals. He made four appearances in Japan and then collected his tenth cap in the friendly against Portugal. Before arriving at Upton Park Trevor played for Blackpool and QPR.

OWEN HARGREAVES BAYERN MUNICH
BORN 20.01.81 10 CAPS
Our Man in Munich earned his tenth England cap as a late substitute in the 2-1 victory against Slovakia. Prior to that, Hargreaves had played throughout the second half of the friendly with Portugal at Villa Park. He had previously started in two World Cup matches, against Sweden and Argentina, but injury curtailed his involvement in the summer campaign.

STEVEN GERRARD LIVERPOOL
BORN 30.05.80 13 CAPS
Steven's appearance against Portugal last September was his first in England's colours since before the 2002 World Cup Finals. He missed the Far East trip because of injury. Since the draw with Portugal, he has played in both European Championship ties versus Slovakia and Macedonia, scoring the second goal at Southampton. Unavailable this evening through suspension.

JOE COLE WEST HAM UNITED
BORN 08.11.81 8 CAPS
'Something always happens when Cole has the ball' noted one newspaper after Joe replaced Michael Owen in last September's draw with Portugal. That game took the young Hammer's tally of full caps to eight, included among them a World Cup Finals appearance against Sweden.

PAUL SCHOLES MANCHESTER UNITED
BORN 16.11.74 51 CAPS
Paul was the only England player to appear consistently throughout the World Cup Qualifying and Finals campaigns. He has also played in both European Championship games so far this season. He can always be relied upon to give a gritty performance in the Three Lions cause – and regularly nets vital goals for club and country.

FORWARDS

EMILE HESKEY LIVERPOOL
BORN 11.01.78 31 CAPS
Emile started out with his hometown club Leicester City and rose through the Under-21 ranks before making his full England debut against Hungary in April 1999. He went from strength to strength after that and last October collected his 31st senior cap against Slovakia.

MICHAEL OWEN LIVERPOOL
BORN 14.12.79 44 CAPS
The Liverpool ace first burst onto the Premiership scene as an 18-year-old. Since then he has collected an array of honours, including the 2002 European Footballer of the Year award and no less than 44 full England caps. He's played in the Finals stages at two World Cup tournaments and a European Championship...and he's still only 23. Michael netted the winner against Slovakia in Bratislava, his 19th goal for England.

DARIUS VASSELL ASTON VILLA
BORN 13.06.80 9 CAPS
Darius scored a brilliant scissors-kick goal on his full England debut against Holland last February. The young Villa star then progressed with further strikes against Paraguay and Cameroon. He was included in Sven's squad for the World Cup Finals and made three appearances in Japan – against Sweden, Nigeria and Brazil. He came on as a sub against Macedonia.

ALAN SMITH LEEDS UNITED
BORN 28.10.80 6 CAPS
Alan netted England's goal with a spectacular diving header in the 1-1 draw with Portugal at Villa Park in September. He was then selected for both the Euro qualifiers, as a substitute in Slovakia and in the starting line-up against Macedonia in Southampton. Unfortunately, due to his injury-time dismissal for a second bookable offence, he was not in the finishing line-up at St Mary's.

Compiled by Tony Lynch

ENGLAND
LIKE BEING ON THE ENGLAND TEAM,
BUT WITHOUT ALL THAT REALLY HARD
TRAINING STUFF.

The Claret and Blue Connection

There has been a close and endearing link between West Ham and the England team ever since Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters played in the 1966 World Cup Final triumph. Trevor Sinclair is delighted to continue the association.

One of West Ham's most consistent performers since his arrival from QPR in January 1998, Trevor Sinclair has now made close to 200 appearances in the team and admits that this evening's special occasion is a proud moment for everyone associated with the club. "It shows how far the club has progressed off the field in the last few years," he says. "They have been very ambitious, the stadium looks great and with the improved capacity, it means we're able to stage terrific footballing events like this one.

"The game has moved on since I first arrived at Upton Park. For safety reasons, stadiums have had to improve. West Ham has been a part of this revolution and, of course, it means they and their fans can enjoy the honour of hosting an England match – something that would not have been possible a couple of years ago."

While the Boleyn Ground will hopefully be full of smiling faces this evening, that sadly hasn't been the case for the Hammers in their current Premiership campaign. Until a fantastic last-minute winner against Blackburn, they had not won a home League match this season, a record that still leaves them seriously threatened by relegation.

"In 2000-01 we had an excellent home record, but this year it hasn't gone well for us," admits Sinclair. "Unfortunately, our form has continued to be inconsistent, but to do well in the Premiership you've really got to win the *majority* of your home games. We've done okay away from home – our record on our travels was better after two months of this season than it was during the entire 2001-02 campaign, so thankfully that has kept us in touch with the others around the bottom of the table. We've just got to keep plugging away, work hard on the training ground and hopefully our team spirit and quality will get us through."

West Ham's struggle this season has been all the more disappointing for Trevor after his superb display in last summer's World Cup Finals, when he went from standing by on reserve at the start of the tournament to being an effective member of the team that reached the quarter-finals. After famously jetting back and forth from the Far East as his place in the final 22 hung in the balance, Trevor's attempt at a world record number of air-miles finally paid off. Coming on as a substitute for the injured Owen Hargreaves during the memorable group stage victory against Argentina, he retained his place for the remainder of the competition.

Looking back at the experience, the ten-times capped Sinclair is understandably proud of his achievements. "It was such a weird situation, a bit like a fairytale," he smiles. "One minute I was booking a holiday in St Lucia and the next I was flying out to Dubai to meet up with the squad, but I'd never lost faith. I was always hopeful that, one way or another, I would get the opportunity. But it all happened so quickly, I didn't really have time to sit down and think too deeply about it.

"It was hard to believe I was playing for England in the biggest competition in the world. I remember joking with a few of the lads before the Brazil game: 'I haven't even played in the quarter-finals of the Worthington Cup, never mind the last-eight of the World Cup!' That wasn't strictly true, as I'd reached the Worthington quarter-finals with West Ham, but it was a humorous way of describing the gulf between what I had been used to and what was now happening to me.

"I look back on the tournament with fond memories and I suppose I see it as patience rewarded. I'd been on the verge of the England squad for quite a few years without making a breakthrough. I was on the bench for the Euro 2000 play-offs against Scotland, but that was about as good as it got, and it wasn't until Sven Göran Eriksson took over that I was given the chance to show what I could do."

Trevor is now hoping for another chance as the countdown to Portugal hots up, but he is honest enough to admit that his international dreams are governed largely by his success with Glenn Roeder's side. "It's difficult to be too positive about international football when things aren't going well at club level. Your confidence is affected and it's hard to play without fear or pressure. Hopefully we can turn that around."

If they succeed there will no doubt be a few West Ham stars continuing that traditional claret and blue connection in the build-up to Euro 2004.

Interview by Danny Francis

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UEFA Women's European Championship comes to England

Some of the most talented female footballers in the world will descend upon England in the summer of 2005 – to compete in Europe's most prestigious women's football tournament.

As hosts of the 5th UEFA European Championship Finals – in 2005 – the England Women's team automatically qualify for the latter stages of the competition and will be asking for the backing of the whole country in the exciting quest for their first silverware.

"It is a great honour for The Football Association to be hosting such a prestigious tournament," said FA Chairman Geoff Thompson. "Women's football is the fastest growing sport – and the top female sport – in England and The FA is delighted to show its commitment to the women's game by hosting this event."

Fans in England will get the chance to see the very best women's football action, with young stars like Fulham's Katie Chapman and Rachel Yankey as well as striker Kelly Smith, of US professional side Philadelphia Charge, all set to star for the Three Lions.

In partnership with Nationwide, England will play their games in top stadia as the eight qualifying nations compete for the UEFA trophy – but it will be a tough battle for the hosts, especially against their usual foes and current title holders Germany, who won the 2001 title on home soil, and are favourites again this time around (incidentally, Scotland will have to be at their best after being drawn in the same Group as the Germans). The qualifying tournament for the remaining seven Finals places will begin next month.

"It's great to qualify without having kicked a ball!" said National Women's Coach Hope Powell OBE. "It gives us the opportunity to once again compete on the top European stage, which is where we should be. In 2005 we hope to improve upon our position in the last championship – and, of course, hosting the event will be a real boost for the national game."

The England Women's team have participated in four of the previous five European Championship Finals. Their best finish to date was in 1995 when they reached the semi-finals. At Euro 2001, England reached the Group stage, but lost to the eventual finalists Sweden and Germany.

For more information on Euro 2005 and women's football in England, check out TheFA.com/Women

Girls and women who want to play football – call The FA's Get Involved hotline on 0845 310 8555.

13.10.2002 BRATISLAVA. European Championship Group Seven
ATTENDANCE 30 000

SLOVAKIA 1-2 ENGLAND

SLOVAKIA Konig, Zeman, Dzurik, Pinte (Kozle), Hlinka, Karhan, Petras, Leitner, Vittek (Reiter), Nemeth, Janocko (Mintal)
ENGLAND Seaman, G Neville, Ashley Cole, Gerrard (Dyer), Woodgate, Southgate, Beckham, Butt, Heskey (Smith), Owen (Hargreaves), Scholes

GOALSCORERS
Beckham, Owen

A VITAL VICTORY

On a cold and wet Bratislava evening, England showed tremendous character to come back from a goal deficit and take three precious points. Mike Payne recalls the action.

A persistent and torrential pre-match downpour cast grave doubts over England's opening European Championship Qualifying Group Seven fixture in Slovakia. Indeed, kick-off time was fast approaching when Italian referee Messina finally pronounced the pitch playable.

Things began badly for England on a difficult surface that proved a great leveller. Like the pitch, England's passing – especially in the first half – was below par, which was all the more disappointing considering that the Three Lions' best available midfield was on view. Too often the front pairing, Emile Heskey and Michael Owen, were left without support even though they both showed great endeavour.

Slovakia, meanwhile, made a good start. The impressive Karhan was dominant in midfield and it came as no surprise when the home side scored first. It came on 24 minutes when Vladimer Janocko's cross from the left caught Ashley Cole out of position. Attila Pinte rose at the far post to head the ball back across goal to be met by Szilard Nemeth. The Middlesbrough man had the easy task of shooting past David Seaman. In the moments that followed, England looked disorientated – as they had been against Brazil in their last competitive match of the summer – and badly in need of a tactical revision. It was not until the last ten minutes of the half that a sense of rhythm at last entered England's play, an improvement that gave some hope to the visiting fans at half-time.

After the break David Beckham took up a central role, while the increasingly influential Paul Scholes occupied his more familiar position behind the front men. Now England were looking more effective as they asserted themselves for the fightback.

Both Beckham and Owen missed good chances and for a while it looked as though it might just be another one of 'those days'. Then, on 64 minutes, England were awarded a free-kick wide on the left. Beckham curled the ball wickedly towards the far post. Owen ran in, apparently adding a vital touch, before watching in delight as the ball zipped off the sodden turf and inside the upright with 'keeper Miroslav Konig completely flat-footed. Many thought it an Owen goal, but the strike was later confirmed as Captain Beckham's eighth for his country.

It was exactly what England needed and from then on they pressed forward in search of another goal. The game remained a scrappy affair but the visitors were in control and in the 82nd minute that hard work gained rich reward. Scholes did well on the right to win the ball and cross from the goal line. A defender missed the ball and Owen nipped in to head past the stunned Konig – a fine piece of opportunism by the gifted Liverpool striker, proving yet again his worth to the side. It was his 19th goal for England.

Slovakia hit back and there were a couple of scares late on as first Seaman fumbled a shot, then Nicky Butt made a superb defensive block to keep out Nemeth's goalbound effort.

It was good to see Gary Neville back in the side and giving a good performance in difficult circumstances. As ever, Beckham worked tirelessly and Owen was always a problem for the opposing defence. His strike partner Heskey had a storming game and, although he rarely looked like scoring, his physical presence and consistent workrate made him a constant thorn for the home side.

Seaman, too, performed well and showed his critics that he still has much to offer. This game was all about grit and determination and to their credit England showed both of those characteristics in abundance. The hard-earned victory in Bratislava will prove vital in the final analysis.

16.10.2002 SOUTHAMPTON. European Championship Group Sever
ATTENDANCE 32,09?

ENGLAND 2-2 MACEDONIA

ENGLAND Seaman, G.Neville, Cole, Gerrard (Butt), Campbell, Woodgate, Beckham, Scholes, Smith, Owen, Bridge (Vassell)
MACEDONIA Milosevski, Popov, Grozdanovski, Sedloski, Vasoski, Petrov, Sumolikoski, Trajanov (Stajanoski), Mitreski, Sakiri, Toleski, Pandev

GOALSCORERS
Beckham, Gerrard

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

Three days after victory in Bratislava, the England roadshow arrived in Southampton for Act Two of the great Euro drama. Mike Payne looked on.

The Saints did England proud with a pristine stadium and a magnificent pitch on which to consolidate the good start gained in Slovakia. But in the event the Three Lions' first full international in the south coast city since 1901 came close to disaster – and for every England fan looking on, it was a night of anguish as the team threatened to unravel all the hard work of the victory in Bratislava.

The pre-match talk was of the 'easy England win by four or five goals' variety; heady speculation that must have echoed in the minds of the home players as they produced what can best be described as an indifferent display.

Macedonia were really up for the battle and proceeded to turn the form book upside-down. Playmaker Artim Sakiri caused problems for England throughout and on 11 minutes David Seaman's recent nightmares returned to haunt him. Sakiri curled the ball in viciously from a left-footed right wing corner. It seemed like suspended animation as the ball arrowed towards goal along the narrowest of trajectories. Seaman looked uncertain as the ball went over him and flew in at a seemingly impossible angle into the net above Paul Scholes who stood at the post. It was a bizarre moment that produced stunned silence among fans and team-mates alike.

Until then Macedonia's five-man midfield had been dominant and England had not performed well. Yet, three minutes later it was all-square with David Beckham once again proving the saviour. Scholes lobbed a brilliant pass through to the captain who controlled the ball with his chest. Spotting 'keeper Peter Milosevski off his line, Beckham coolly chipped the ball over him and into the net. It was a wonderful goal that at last brought the home fans to life.

For their part the Macedonians seemed unperturbed by this development – they knuckled down to the task in hand and in the 25th minute deservedly regained the lead. This time a Steven Gerrard error surrendered possession. When the subsequent cross came in, Sol Campbell failed to clear and the ball ran straight to the incoming Vanco Trajanov who duly placed his 22 yard shot wide of Seaman. Such was the stunned silence this time, you could hear the waves lapping in the nearby Docks.

The goal affected England who took a while to resettle, although local boy Wayne Bridge was an exception. The young Saints star linked encouragingly in the problematic left midfield position. He and Ashley Cole worked well together and Bridge's crosses were causing constant danger for Macedonia. Other players impressed individually, Jonathan Woodgate, Beckham and Alan Smith in particular, but as a team England struggled to gel. To their credit though Sven's men drew level before the break. Beckham delivered a short pass to Gerrard who atoned for his earlier faux pas with a tremendous volley that fairly flew past Milosevski. The half ended with the fans in emotional turmoil. They had watched a marvellous spectacle but, from an England point of view, the game had been littered with disappointments.

In the first minute after the break Sakiri missed a golden chance. England's woes were compounded when Gerrard was carried off injured and then Bridge was substituted by Darius Vassell. Michael Owen, who had seen little of the ball, did find the net in the 65th minute but an offside flag ruled out the strike. The best chance of the game fell to Woodgate, but his shot was blocked on the line and hacked clear. In stoppage time Smith completed an unhappy evening for England when a clumsy challenge led to his second yellow card and subsequent dismissal. Sakiri continued to cause problems to the end and Macedonia thoroughly deserved their share of the spoils.

Shortly afterwards, referee Ibanez's whistle brought an end to Phase One of Eriksson's latest European challenge, leaving the boss and his players acutely aware of the hard work yet to be done on the road to Lisbon.

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Add to all of that the fact that winning just one game in the competition these days can make a world of difference to a club, its players and its fans. That's because The Football Association revised the FA Cup prize fund structure last season, with the result that clubs now consider each match to be almost as important as the Cup Final itself.

Back in August 2002 the 45 winners of the Extra-Preliminary Round each picked up £500 and earned the opportunity to play for another £1,000 in the Preliminary Round. Teams who progressed through two further victories stood to pocket a total of £9,000 for advancing as far as the Second Qualifying Round. Two more wins brought the exciting prospect of a possible meeting with a Football Conference side, in addition to another £10,000 payday.

When Bridlington Town's Cup run of five victories ended at Southport in the Fourth Qualifying Round, the Northern Counties East outfit went home £26,500 richer. Harrogate Railway also benefited greatly from the prize fund. As the club with the most Cup wins so far this season – six – they scooped a total of £66,500. Even when the Railwaymen were eliminated at home by Bristol City, there was a further £100,000 TV bonus payment from The FA to cushion the fall.

In 2001 The FA sold the TV rights for The FA Cup, England internationals, The Community Shield and Women's football to The BBC and BSkyB in a £400 million, three-year agreement. This 400% increase from the previous deal allowed The FA to redistribute more funds throughout the game and within The FA Cup competition in particular. Once the revised Cup payments were established, an increase in prize fund and broadcast payments followed as part of The FA's commitment to develop football at every level.

Overall, The FA fed more than £26 million back into The FA Cup last season. Aside from the finalists, who picked up £3 million between them on that warm May afternoon in Cardiff, Middlesbrough earned just short of £1.3 million; £675,000 in prize money collected en route to the semi-finals, and the remainder from ties featured on radio and television.

Dagenham & Redbridge have enjoyed financial bonuses generated by prolonged Cup runs in recent seasons. Trips from the Fourth Qualifying Round to face Charlton Athletic, and Ipswich Town 12 months later, have earned the Conference side over £1 million – and they collected another £400,000 this season.

Adding their names to the growing list of FA Cup beneficiaries this year are Shrewsbury Town and Farnborough Town, thanks to last month's Third Round giant-killing acts. More will follow as part of the magic of The FA Cup, the competition that points to a brighter future for many clubs.

Jamie Bradbury

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West Ham and England Legend Martin Peters

Here are 20 fascinating facts

1. Born in Plaistow on 8th November 1943, Martin is a true Eastender
2. West Ham United v Cardiff City at Upton Park in 1962 was the fixture in which he made his League debut
3. Disappointingly, Martin was omitted from West Ham's 1964 FA Cup Final line-up when the Hammers beat Preston North End 3-2
4. Versatile or what? Martin once kept goal for the Hammers – as cover for the injured Brian Rhodes
5. Martin played in the 1965 European Cup Winners' Cup Final at Wembley when West Ham triumphed 2-0 over TSV Munich 1860
6. Only nine weeks before the start of the World Cup Finals, Martin made his full England debut, against Yugoslavia, at Wembley
7. Martin netted the first of his 20 international goals against Finland
8. Wearing the No.16 shirt, he played in five of England's 1966 World Cup matches
9. Geoff Hurst headed the only goal of England's 1966 World Cup quarter-final win against Argentina, from Martin's precise left-wing cross
10. But for Wolfgang Weber's 90th minute equaliser, Martin's 77th minute goal would have won the '66 World Cup for England against West Germany
11. A 2-0 win in Belfast against Northern Ireland marked England's first match after being crowned World Champions – Martin was again on the scoresheet
12. Martin scored in Euro qualifiers against Wales and Scotland and in the 1968 European Championship quarter-final victory over Spain. England finished third in the competition
13. In March 1970 a £200,000 transfer took Martin from West Ham to Tottenham, with Jimmy Greaves moving in the opposite direction
14. In all, Martin scored 100 goals as a free roving midfielder for West Ham in 362 League and Cup appearances
15. Martin's goal put England into a 2-0 lead against West Germany in the 1970 World Cup quarter-final. Sir Alf later substituted both Peters and Bobby Charlton – and the Germans recovered to win 3-2, thus ending England's reign as World Champions
16. Martin captained England for the first time in the 0-0 draw with Wales at Wembley in May 1971. He skippered the national side on three further occasions
17. A great run brought three medals Martin's way as Spurs won the League Cup in 1971 and '73 – and the UEFA Cup in '72
18. He collected his 67th and final cap against Scotland in May 1974
19. Martin completed his playing career with Norwich City and Sheffield United
20. Awarded the MBE for services to football, Martin is currently a non-executive director at Tottenham

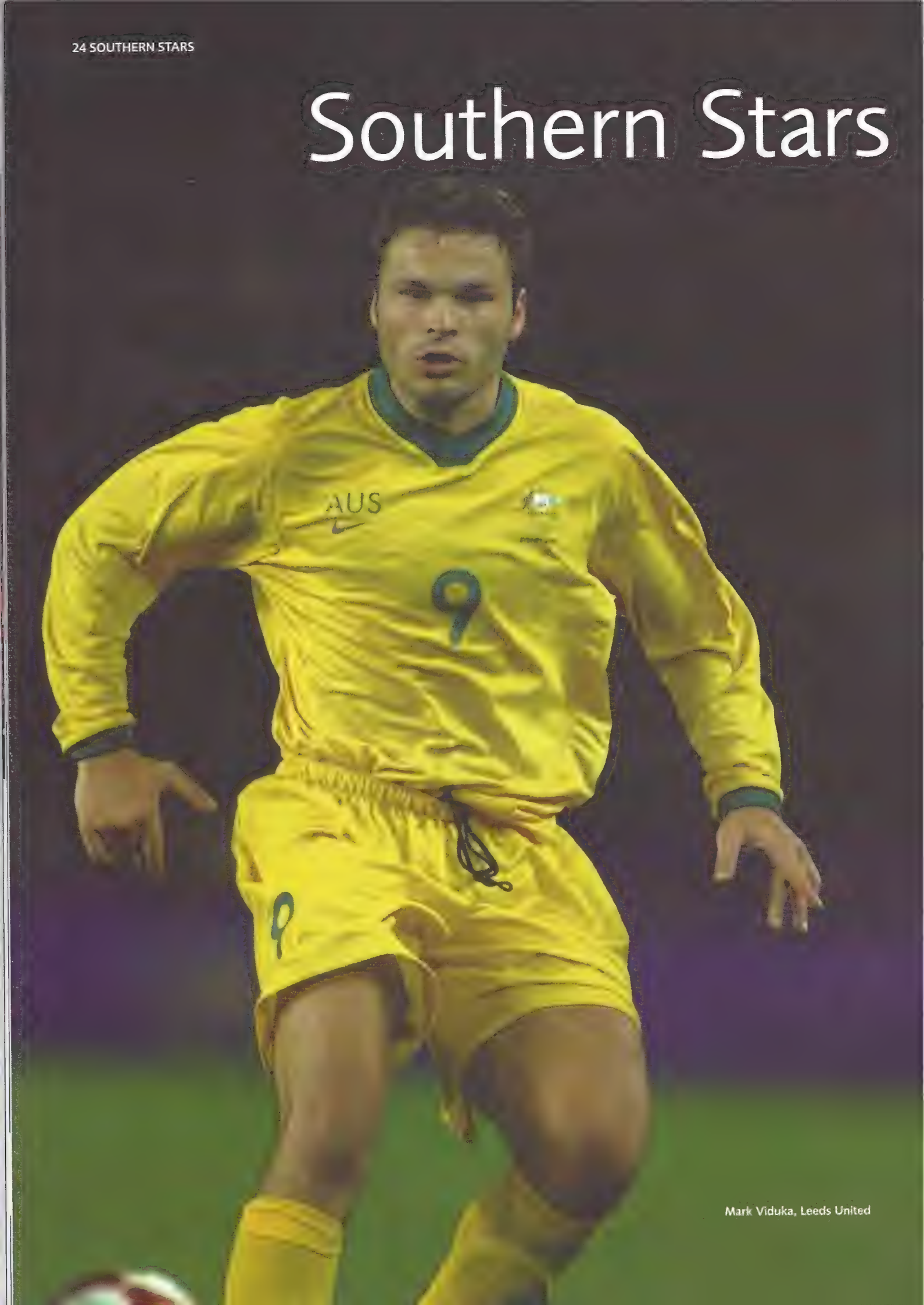
Compiled by Dave Bracegirdle

Famously described by Alf Ramsey as a player "ten years ahead of his time"

Known as 'the Ghost', Martin netted 20 international goals for England.

Martin missed West Ham's FA Cup final victory over Preston North End in 1964.

Southern Stars



Mark Viduka, Leeds United

in England

PREMIERSHIP STARS HARRY KEWELL, STAN LAZARIDIS, LUCAS NEILL, MARK SCHWARZER AND MARK VIDUKA ARE AMONG THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS IN THE ENGLISH GAME. LEIGH EDWARDS REPORTS.

The first Australian player to appear in the Football League was full-back **John Cuffe** who netted three goals in 282 Second Division games for Glossop before the First World War. Winger **Harry Higginbotham** had spells with Luton Town, Clapton Orient and Reading during the 1920s – but the first Aussie to play top-flight English football was left-half **Frank Mitchell** who starred for Birmingham City, Chelsea and Watford after the Second World War.

Aussie footballing-cricketer **Ken Grieves** played in goal for Bury, Bolton Wanderers and Stockport County as well as enjoying a good innings with Lancashire CCC. Fellow goalkeeper **Willie Fraser** was born in Melbourne of Scottish parentage but grew up in Stirling and starred for Sunderland and Nottingham Forest, gaining two Scotland caps during the 1954-55 season. Centre-half **Joe Marston** made 185 League appearances for Preston and played in the 1954 FA Cup Final.

Forward **Max Tolson** moved from South Coast United to Workington in February 1966, while goalkeeper **John Roberts** was ever-present for Chesterfield in 1967-68 and also played for Bradford City, Southend United and Northampton Town. Several players left England to sample Australian soccer during this period, most notably Preston-born striker **Adrian Alston** who became an Australian international and later returned to play for Luton Town and Cardiff City.

International striker **John Kosmina** joined Arsenal from Polonia in March 1978, but made only a single appearance in the First Division before returning to home town West Adelaide in March 1979. He subsequently gained a total of 102 caps for Australia.

The first Australian to make it big in English football in the modern era was **Craig Johnston**. Although born in Johannesburg, Johnston grew up in Australia and was a member of the Australian youth squad when he wrote to a number of English First Division clubs requesting a trial. The postal campaign obviously worked as he signed professionally for Middlesbrough in February 1978 and gained England Under-21 honours before joining Liverpool for £580,000 in April 1981.

Australian-born left-back **Tony Dorigo** grew up in Birmingham and turned professional with Aston Villa in July 1983. He moved to Chelsea for £475,000 in July 1987 before being sold to Leeds United for £1.3 million in May 1991. He was capped 15 times by England.

Striker **David Oldfield**, currently with Oxford United, is another player born in Australia but raised in England. The England Under-21 international starred in the top-flight for Luton Town, Manchester City and Leicester City and also played for Stoke City and Peterborough United. Australian pair **Andy Bernal** and **Stuart Lovell** gave Reading excellent service, while international midfielder **Richard Johnson** helped Watford rise the Premiership under Graham Taylor.

Aussie international goalkeeper **Mark Bosnich** joined Manchester United from Sydney Croatia in June 1989. He moved to Aston Villa in February 1992 and was a key figure in their 1994 and 1996 Coca-Cola Cup Final triumphs. He returned to Old Trafford in July 1999 and featured in United's 1999-2000 Premiership title campaign. Fellow international **Mark Schwarzer** has given Middlesbrough fine service, while other Aussie 'keepers who have played in English football include **Jason Kearton**, **John Filan**, **Steve Mautone**, **Andy Petterson** and **Frank Talia**.

Central defender **Shaun Murphy** joined Notts County from Perth Italia in September 1992. The Australian international joined West Brom for £500,000 in December 1996 and is now playing under Neil Warnock again, at Sheffield United. Other Aussies who have appeared for the Blades include **Dougie Hodgson** and **Carl Veart**, while strikers **Paul Agostino** and **David Seal** were partners in Bristol City's attack.

International left-back **Jason van Blerk** joined Millwall from Dutch side Go Ahead Eagles in September 1994 and has since played for Manchester City, West Brom, Stockport County, Hull City and now Shrewsbury Town. Fellow international **Steve Corica** joined Leicester City from Australian side Marconi for £325,000 in August 1995 and has also starred for Wolves and Walsall, while **Lucas Neill** has given excellent service to Millwall and Blackburn Rovers.

In contrast, QPR splashed out a then record £1.25 million to sign Australian international captain **Ned Zelic** from Borussia Dortmund in August 1995, but the big midfielder made just four Premiership appearances before returning to Germany with Eintracht Frankfurt. Right-back **Andy McDermott** played for QPR, West Brom and Notts County before moving to Australian side Northern Spirit.

Aussie winger **Stan Lazaridis** joined West Ham from West Adelaide for £300,000 in September 1995 before moving to Birmingham City for £1.6 million in July 1999. Midfielder **Tim Cahill** featured prominently as Millwall won the 2000-01 Second Division title.

Harry Kewell signed professionally for Leeds United from the Australian Academy of Sport in December 1995 and made his international debut against Chile four months later. He was voted PFA Young Player of the Year in 2000-01.

Fellow Australian international **Mark Viduka** joined Kewell at Elland Road after a £6 million move from Celtic in July 2000 and last August **Paul Okon** arrived at Leeds from Watford.

Unsurprisingly, a number of Australian players joined Pompey during Terry Venables' reign as Chairman. The most notable was international striker **John Aloisi** who cost £300,000 from Italian side Cremonese in August 1997. He was leading marksman in 1997-98, before moving to Coventry City for £650,000 in December '98. Pompey's other Aussie signings included **Robbie Enes**, **Paul Harries**, **Craig Foster** and **Hamilton Thorp**. The likes of **Craig Moore** and **Nicky Rizzo** subsequently played under Venables at Crystal Palace.

Danny Tiatto, **Danny Allsopp**, **Con Blatsis**, **Tony Vidmar**, **Luke Wilkshire** and **Hayden Foxe** have been among the most significant Aussie imports over the past few seasons and several English clubs have forged links with Australian sides in a bid to discover more talent Down Under.

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QuickQuiz David James

How much do you know about the popular West Ham and England 'keeper?

1. In which year was David first capped at senior level?
2. How many senior caps has David won as a West Ham player?
3. How many England appearances has David made so far this season?
4. Did David actually play in Sven's first England match in charge?
5. Who were England playing when David had the misfortune to be substituted as a substitute?
6. Has David ever played for the England 'B' team?
7. How many caps did David win at Under-21 level?
8. Can you name David's four League clubs?
9. With which club did David win the FA Youth Cup?
10. In which county was David born?

Answers

1. 1997; 2. Six; 3. One; 4. Yes; 5. Holland; 6. Yes; 7. Ten; 8. Watford, Liverpool, Aston Villa and West Ham United; 9. Watford; 10. Hertfordshire

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Putting Soccer Over Down Under

Four Four Two's Chief Feature Writer Sam Pilger assesses the current domestic scene in Australia and sees the need for a major success if the game is to grow there.

At the last count there were 131 Australian footballers playing abroad, from Paul Agostino at 1860 Munich to Peter Zois at Dutch side NAC Breda. Yet back home the game they call 'soccer' remains only the fourth most popular sport behind Aussie rules, rugby and cricket.

Recent figures show that in a single year 6.7 million Australians attend Aussie Rules games, 2.8 million go and see rugby league and Australia's all-conquering cricket team will play to almost full houses, especially during an Ashes series. Football, of the Association code, lags behind with less than a million spectators per annum.

While Australians enjoy European football – especially the Premiership, which is beamed back live every Saturday night – and the most recent World Cup Final was viewed by Australia's biggest television audience in 2002, they are less keen to watch their own domestic offering. The National Soccer League (NSL), formed as recently as 1977, can only ever provide limited entertainment with the best Australian players being scattered around the world.

Several of the leading Australian internationals – the Socceroos – began their career in the NSL; Mark Viduka at the Melbourne Knights, Paul Okon at Marconi and Feyenoord's Brett Emerton at Sydney Olympic, but increasingly the best talents are being swooped upon by European clubs before they get anywhere near the NSL. Unlike his two Leeds United team-mates, Harry Kewell has never appeared in a domestic game Down Under.

While nearly 43,000 watched last season's NSL Grand Final between Perth Glory and the Sydney Olympic Sharks, the average crowd for an NSL match, even though the figure has been rising for the last five years, still stands at around 5,000. If you took all the fans at all the games on any given NSL matchday they could comfortably fit into Old Trafford's towering North Stand, with room to spare.

There is a realisation that something needs to be done to boost the game's popularity at domestic level, if only to increase the all-important television and sponsorship revenues. "The current national league is in its death throes, it's a ruin," says former Soccer Australia chairman David Hill. "You now have no choice but to scrap it and start again."

This clanging of alarm bells has led to increasing calls for a radical restructuring of the NSL, with suggestions for a new Australian Premier League starting from next season, 2003-04. At the moment, the NSL consists of 13 teams, ranging from Perth Glory in Western Australia right across to the Football Kingz in Auckland, New Zealand (the only non-Australian team). The NSL does offer the attraction of being competitive, having seen seven different teams become champions in the last decade. The Sydney Olympic Sharks are the reigning champions and were in second place behind Perth Glory earlier this month.

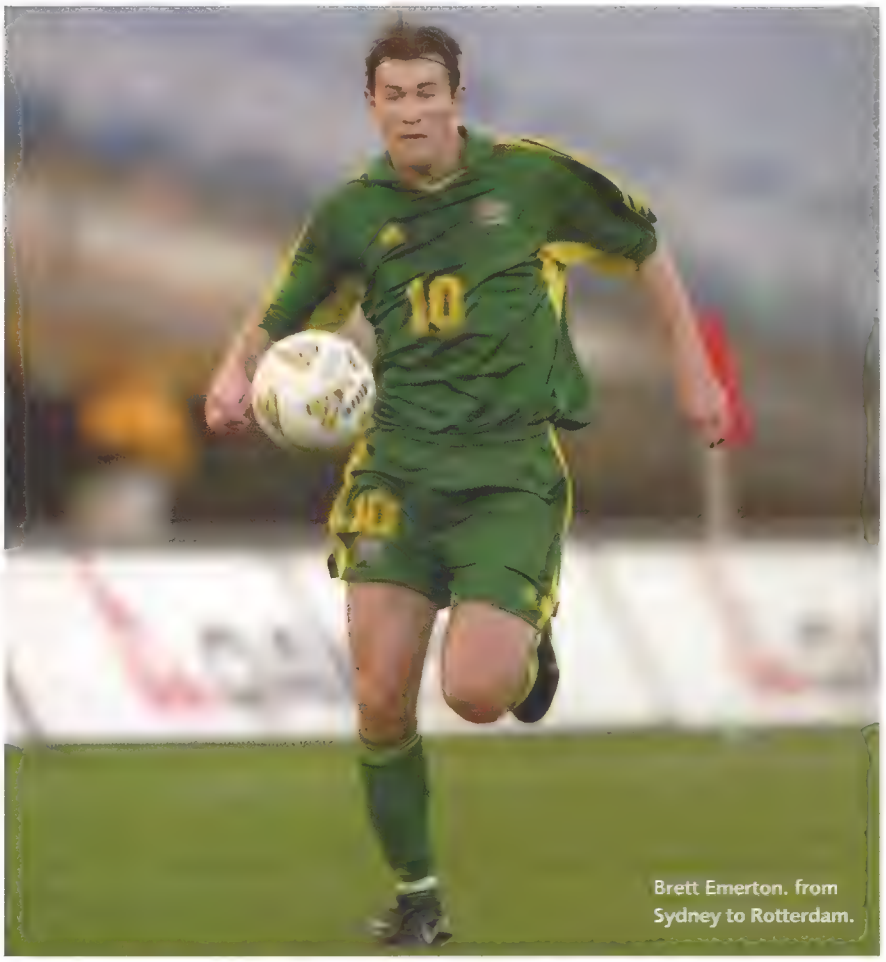
One of the major obstacles to soccer properly establishing itself in Australia is the fact that the game is seen as overwhelmingly un-Australian. Cricket, rugby, and of course their own code of football are seen as the real Australian sports, while soccer has long been dismissed as an unwelcome European import. The Middlesbrough and Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer even recalls being laughed at and taunted for playing soccer in his schooldays.

Even though Australia was an English colony, it wasn't until the influx of Greek, Italian and Yugoslav immigrants after the Second World War that soccer really began to establish a foothold in the country. Most of the NSL's teams emerged from within Australia's ethnic communities, as can be gleaned from their original names; Melbourne Knights were Melbourne Croatia, Adelaide City Force were Adelaide Juventus and Sydney United were Sydney Croatia.

"It was crucial for Australian soccer to lose the tag of being an ethnic or immigrant game and I think that has been happening recently," says former Soccer Australia Commissioner Tony Labbozzetta. "Clubs were isolating themselves from large sections of the community by being seen as too ethnic, but they are opening their doors now."

The greatest boost to soccer in Australia would undoubtedly come if the national team qualified for the 2006 World Cup in Germany; it would be their first Finals appearance since 1974. "Maybe not in the near future, but soccer could overtake the other sports," says Socceroo coach Frank Farina. "Sponsors would want to get involved, the national league would benefit and so would the grassroots game. But we must qualify for the World Cup Finals before that can even begin to happen."

Meanwhile, a good result against England in East London would do no harm at all...



Brett Emerton. from Sydney to Rotterdam.

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Q&A with Frank Farina

Australia's coach is put in the spotlight.

What would it mean for Australia to beat England this evening?
I appreciate that in terms of football nothing's really at stake in this game, but this isn't a PR exercise, we are desperate to win. England are one of the best teams in the world, so we want to measure ourselves against them. The whole of Australia is excited about this game, it will be shown live at seven o'clock in the morning back home and we want to put on a good show.

> "To be asked to play England in England shows the progress we've made. They don't agree to play everyone"

I can't see England playing for a 1-0 win, so I think it will be an exciting and open game.

Is an Australian victory a realistic prospect tonight?
Yes, because we are coming here to win. We always do that. We won't put ten men behind the ball and just defend. We will try to take the game to England as much as possible. But it won't be at all easy, England regularly play together, whereas it's very rare that I get to put out my best team.

What are the strengths of this Australian team?
Well, put it this way, we're not coming to roll over. England will take us lightly at their peril. We are a good side with a mixture of youth and experience. The English know how good some of our players are – like Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka – as they play in the Premiership every week.

What do you consider to be the main dangers of this England team?
I followed their progress at the World Cup and in some of the recent qualifiers and friendlies; they appear a very solid side. On their day their attack can be one of the best in the world with Michael Owen and Emile Heskey, backed up by David Beckham and Paul Scholes. There is no doubt that they have quality all over the park, but it's whether they do it on the day.

What did you think of England's performances at the World Cup?
They came through a very tough group, but then found it difficult against Brazil, and were probably outclassed in the quarter-finals. They couldn't really step up to the next level and I think they went as far as they could.

You must have been really disappointed when Australia failed to qualify for the last World Cup...
It was a terrible feeling, absolutely terrible. Qualifying for the World Cup has become a national obsession in Australia. We have failed at the final hurdle so many times and we're desperate to get there. It's been difficult for us because we do very little in between World Cup qualifying campaigns, so it's almost an impossible task. I firmly believe that you could have sent any team out to play Uruguay in Montevideo and they would have found it as difficult as we did. We didn't play as well as we should have done on that day.

You'll obviously be delighted at FIFA now giving Oceania direct entry to the next World Cup...
Of course, because it brings us into line with the other confederations and we absolutely deserve it, not just Down Under, but in the whole region of Oceania. The FIFA slogan is 'For the Good of the Game', and that's exactly what this is. Some people say it gives Australia a guaranteed place every four years and, while that might be likely initially, it wouldn't always be the case as the region grew stronger and stronger.

How would Australia have done at the last World Cup?
I have no doubt that with the calibre of our players we would have held our own against anyone. I really mean that. We have a good side, but we haven't had the opportunity to get on to the big stage and show it. Australia certainly wouldn't have been out of its depth at the World Cup.

How do you think Australia are viewed on the international stage?
Well, take tonight, to be asked to play England in England shows the progress we've made. They don't agree to play everyone. We have a lot of players in the major European Leagues, which means we are taken a lot more seriously these days. We are a good side and I hope we prove that tonight.

Sam Pilger

The Socceroos

GOALKEEPERS

MARK SCHWARZER MIDDLESBROUGH

BORN 06.10.72 19 CAPS

Mark burst onto the senior international scene when his two penalty shoot-out saves eliminated Canada from the 1994 World Cup Qualifiers. After winning a League championship medal with Marconi and the Goalkeeper of the Year accolade at the end of the 1993-94 season, he moved to Germany and served Kaiserslautern and Dynamo Dresden before commencing his English career at Bradford City. He has thrived with 'Boro and now ranks amongst the Premiership's top shot-stoppers.

ZELJKO KALAC PERUGIA (ITALY)

BORN 16.12.72 38 CAPS

Now back playing first team football at Perugia, Zeljko has experienced a rollercoaster career in Europe. The 6' 7" custodian, nicknamed "Spider", had his hopes of establishing himself in England ruined by failing to secure a work permit, despite making senior appearances for Leicester City. International commitments then reduced his opportunities in Holland with Roda J. C., but this Sydney United product was still able to graduate into Serie A. He featured in Perugia's recent Italian Cup victory over Juventus.

DEFENDERS

KEVIN MUSCAT RANGERS

BORN 07.08.73 37 CAPS

Following an appearance in the 1993 World Youth Cup semi-finals and, having already clocked-up Australian League outings with Sunshine George Cross, South Melbourne and Heidelberg United, Bolton native Kevin decided to try his luck in the land of his birth. He proved his mettle at Crystal Palace and Wolves before arriving at Ibrox last year. He is an integral member of the Australian rearguard.

SHAUN MURPHY SHEFFIELD UNITED

BORN 05.11.70 18 CAPS

A wholehearted defender, Shaun did not make his Socceroos debut until the age of 29, despite numerous able performances at Youth and intermediate international levels. Notts County secured his signature after he featured in the 1992 Olympics semi-final. He also served West Brom before becoming a Blade. Blacktown City, Perth Italia and Heidelberg United were his Australian clubs.

CRAIG MOORE RANGERS

BORN 12.12.75 20 CAPS

Craig starred at the 1993 World Youth Cup, then immediately flew to Scotland as a 17-year-old without a single senior game to his name. He cemented a place in the Rangers senior squad within a year and has been there ever since – apart from six months at Crystal Palace – winning a string of honours. Craig is equally at home as a stopper, right back or central defender. After a hesitant start to his international career, his is now one of the first names on Frank Farina's team sheet.

TONY VIDMAR MIDDLESBROUGH

BORN 04.07.70 53 CAPS

A dependable performer at international level for over a decade. Tony won domestic honours with Adelaide City prior to pursuing greater glory at Germinal Ekeren (Belgium) and NAC Breda (Holland), but it was with Glasgow Rangers that he really proved his worth. A transfer to Middlesbrough has given him a new lease of life and the opportunity to prove his ability in the Premiership. His older brother Aurelio, also an Australian international, is a past Belgian League top scorer.

TONY POPOVIC CRYSTAL PALACE

BORN 04.07.73 39 CAPS

Making his Australian League debut at 16, Tony remained with Sydney United through eight seasons, winning the 1994-95 Player of the Year accolade before gaining his initial experience of football overseas with Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan). A Palace Eagle since 2001, he can claim caps at Under-17, Under-20, Olympic and 'A' levels and he played in the third place play-off at both the 1991 World Youth Cup and the 1992 Olympics.

LUCAS NEILL BLACKBURN ROVERS
BORN 09.03.78 2 CAPS
Lucas quickly showed himself worthy of Premier League status after moving to Blackburn from Millwall last year for £1 million. An uncompromising defender, who made his name in midfield, he is expected to return to the Socceroos fold this evening after an absence of almost four years. Like many other squad members, Lucas is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport.

PAUL OKON LEEDS UNITED
BORN 05.04.72 24 CAPS
Australia's first choice captain, Paul experienced mixed fortunes in Europe after winning a League champions' medal and two Under-21 Player of the Year awards in Marconi colours. He picked up a Belgian League title and Player of the Year award with FC Bruges, although his time in Italy (with Lazio and Fiorentina) and England (at Middlesbrough, Watford and Leeds United) has been marred by injuries and periods on the subs' bench. However, he has performed superbly for Australia – both as a sweeper and linkman – in the World Youth Cup, Confederations Cup, Olympics and friendly internationals.

LJUBO MILICEVIC BASLE (SWITZERLAND)
BORN 13.02.81 0 CAPS
Highly rated sweeper, who will celebrate his 22nd birthday tomorrow, Ljubo is making waves in Switzerland despite suffering more than his fair share of injuries. He joined Basle from Perth Glory two years ago and is now tipped to captain Australia at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

HAYDEN FOXE PORTSMOUTH
BORN 23.06.77 10 CAPS
Just 18 when engaged by Dutch giants Ajax, Hayden also wore the colours of Arminia Bielefeld in Germany and Japan's Sanfrecce Hiroshima before joining West Ham two years ago. His progress has been stalled by injuries and work permit problems, but he is now thriving at Pompey and coming close to fulfilling the immense potential he displayed as a teenager.

MIDFIELDERS

BRETT EMERTON FEYENOORD (HOLLAND)
BORN 22.01.79 21 CAPS
The inability to secure a work permit denied Brett the opportunity to sign for Leeds when he trialled at Elland Road with Harry Kewell in '95. Five years later, Feyenoord introduced him to European football and he played a major role in the Dutch club's 2001-02 UEFA Cup triumph. This gifted linkman captured the 1997-98 Australian Under-21 Player of the Year prize with Sydney Olympic.

STEVE CORICA WALSALL
BORN 24.03.73 31 CAPS
From the tropical north of Queensland, Steve became the first player to represent Australia at Schoolboy, Under-16, Youth, Olympic and senior levels. He was signed by Leicester City in 1995, having won a League champions' medal and an Under-21 Player of the Year trophy with Marconi. Stints at Wolves and Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan) followed, before Colin Lee secured him for the Saddlers last year.

JOSIP SKOKO RACING GENK (BELGIUM)
BORN 10.12.75 23 CAPS
Josip made a huge impact in the Croatian First Division upon joining Hajduk Split from Victorian State League minnows North Geelong in 1995. He attracted attention from Bologna and Sampdoria, but surprisingly opted for Racing Genk and is now acknowledged as one of the most creative linkmen in Belgium.

STAN LAZARIDIS BIRMINGHAM CITY
BORN 15.08.72 44 CAPS
A physical education student when on the books of his Australian clubs, Perth Italia and West Adelaide, Stan became a full time professional with West Ham in 1995. Converted from an overlapping full-back to midfielder after transferring to Birmingham, he played no small part in the Blues' elevation to the Premier League last season.

HARRY KEWELL LEEDS UNITED
BORN 22.09.78 12 CAPS
Harry arrived in England in 1995, under the New South Wales Soccer Federation's Big Brother Scheme which annually provides opportunities for the state's most promising young players to trial with leading English clubs. He was snapped up by Leeds and rapidly established himself among Europe's most exciting young stars. One of the few Australians to enhance their reputations in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, he will be the man Farina builds his side around for 2006.

DANNY TIATTO MANCHESTER CITY
BORN 22.05.73 19 CAPS
Danny helped Melbourne Knights win an Australian Championship in his first year of senior football, prior to embarking on a European career, serving his apprenticeship with Salernitana (Italy) and Baden (Switzerland). Stoke City introduced him to the English scene and Manchester City provided a route into the Premiership.

FORWARDS

JOHN ALOISI OSASUNA (SPAIN)
BORN 05.02.76 24 CAPS
A much-travelled striker, John has the rare distinction of having appeared in the English Premier League, Italy's Serie A and the Primera Liga of Spain. His previous clubs include Adelaide City, Royal Antwerp, Standard Liege, Portsmouth, Coventry City and Cremonese. A robust striker, he has made life difficult for many world class defenders. His brother Ross is also a Socceroo.

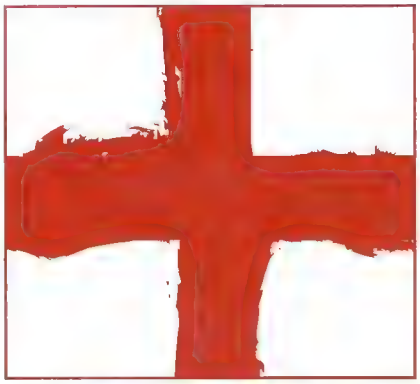
MARK VIDUKA LEEDS UNITED
BORN 09.10.75 19 CAPS
Mark won League Championship medals, Under-21 Player of the Year, Leading Goalscorer and Player of the Year awards in both of his last two seasons with Melbourne Knights. He then joined Croatia Zagreb (rather than Middlesbrough or Borussia Dortmund) at the behest of then Croatian state president Franjo Tudjman. Viduka gained a string of further honours with Zagreb and Celtic before joining Leeds, where he continues to shine in the Premiership.

MILE STERJOVSKI LILLE (FRANCE)
BORN 27.05.79 3 CAPS
Quicksilver striker Mile improved in leaps and bounds during his initial two seasons in France, but now seems destined for a move to FC Copenhagen. He was named 1998-99 Under-21 Player of the Year with Sydney United. Parramatta Power and Wollongong Wolves were his other Australian clubs.

DAVID ZDRILIC WALSALL
BORN 13.04.74 CAPS 22
Before arriving in the Midlands, David played for Sydney United, FC Aarau (Switzerland), SpVgg Unterhaching and SV Ulm (both Germany). Although slightly built for a striker, he has accumulated an impressive 18 goals at full international level, including eight in one match against American Samoa two years ago. He was the Australian League's leading striker in 1996-97.

Compiled by Paul Moon

Welcome from Sir Geoff Hurst MBE



Sir Geoff Hurst and Eric Harrison speaking to young people at McDonald's coaching day.

ENGLAND

OFFICIAL PARTNER

McDonald's Director of Football

It gives me great pleasure to wish the England team the best of luck in this historic fixture against Australia. Not only is this the first time the two sides have met on English soil, it's also the first time a Senior England International has been staged by West Ham United at the Boelyn Ground, Upton Park.

I believe Upton Park is one of the finest stadiums in the country and I'm glad The FA chose West Ham to host this match - it promises to be a great game.

McDonald's became the The FA's Community Partner at the start of this season. The company asked me to help advise and represent its football interests from the grassroots to the highest levels in the national game as its Director of Football. This demonstrates how serious the company is about making a real difference to football coaching at the grassroots and is something I am very excited about.

I am working alongside McDonald's National Football Coach, Eric Harrison – who has been a major influence on the careers of England stars like David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and the Neville brothers – to ensure the company's football activity is delivered to the highest professional standards.

The company's major ambition through its partnership with The FA is to create 8,000 new qualified football coaches over the next four years for schools and communities across the country.

The coaches will come from schools, from the community at large and from football enthusiasts working for McDonald's. The results will be well over a million more hours of coaching for youngsters across the country in the years to come.

Over 100 people have already qualified as new coaches through the scheme through pilot courses held in Birmingham, Yorkshire and Essex.

I'm delighted to say McDonald's commitment to grassroots football will immediately benefit schools and communities in East London. For every goal scored by England in tonight's match, McDonald's will donate 500 footballs to primary schools and community teams chosen by West Ham in this area.

McDonald's will continue this theme and donate footballs to primary schools and community teams in each region England visit in their home games this year.

I am sure you will give the team a great Upton Park welcome tonight and I hope you all thoroughly enjoy the match. Let's hope for an avalanche of goals tonight to provide a boost for primary schools and community football teams across East London.

Best wishes

Sir Geoff Hurst MBE
McDonald's Director of Football

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Making His Mark

Middlesbrough and Australia star Mark Schwarzer tells Sam Pilger that he's happy to turn out anytime, anyplace, anywhere in the famous gold and green.

As an Australian playing in England, can you explain your initial reaction when the fixture was announced?
There had been a bit of talk about this game happening for years, but for whatever reason it could never be nailed down – so I was really pleased when it was finally confirmed. It seemed such an obvious thing to do, with England and Australia enjoying a rivalry in so many other sports like cricket and rugby, so why not football as well? There is clearly something special about this game because I understand it sold out very fast. The demand is there, so I hope it's the first of many. For me personally, as a proud Australian, it would mean so much to beat England, and I think we have a chance.

It must be great to play an international in England...
Oh yeah, it's great and it will make a nice change to just go down to London rather than take a 22 hour flight to the other side of the world. But when you play for the Socceroos, you have to accept it involves a lot of travelling. It can be tough, and that was certainly the case at the beginning of my career when I wasn't a regular at my club. You could go off to play for your country and find you'd lost your position when you arrived back. But I love playing for my country, and I'm 100% behind playing for Australia wherever and whenever it is.

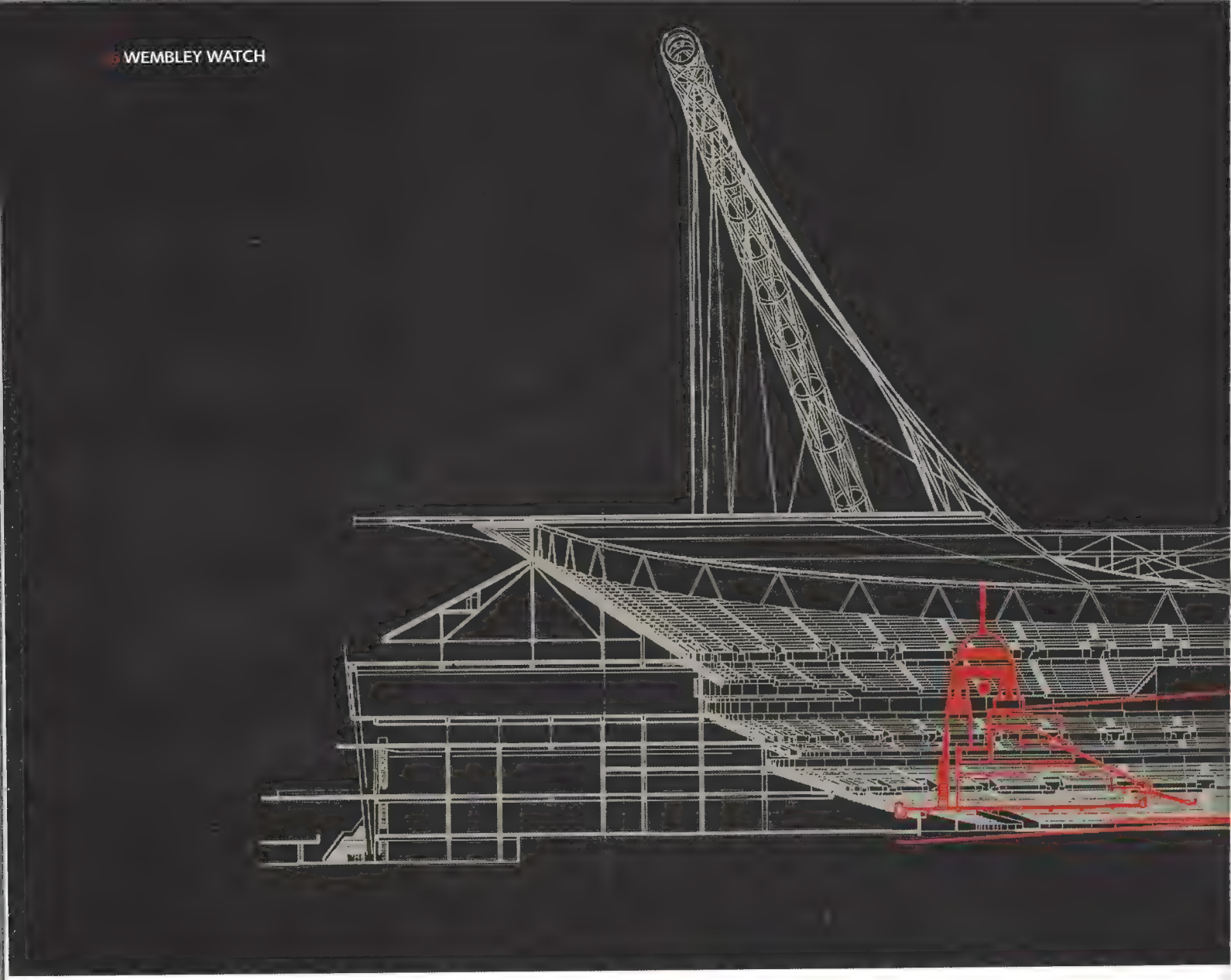
Australia have been world champions at cricket, rugby league, rugby union and tennis. Can you ever see the day when they add football to that list?
At the moment that idea is so far-fetched I can't even contemplate it! We need to qualify for the World Cup before we can even think about winning it. And not just qualify for it once, but again and again. Remember, we've only played in one World Cup and that was nearly 30 years ago.

Can you ever see football becoming as popular as cricket and Aussie rules in Australia?
On an international level with the Socceroos, it is very close to the other sports already. Just look at the end of 2001 when we got crowds of 80,000 in Melbourne for our games against France and Uruguay. But almost as amazing was when we played New Zealand in Sydney, already holding a 2-0 lead from the first leg and a crowd of 40,000 came to see us. I couldn't believe it. That tells you the depth of feeling for the game in Australia. However, on a club level the game will take a long, long time to get stronger and challenge the more established sports. The whole infrastructure needs to be revamped and that's what they're trying to do at the moment.

What do you see as the main obstacle to football overtaking the other sports?
Well, we should remember that in terms of participation soccer has already become the most popular sport in Australia. It is played by more people than any other sport, but once you get up to our national league, the NSL, the interest seems to fade. How can we stop that happening? That situation needs to be addressed, but so far they have been unsuccessful in turning it around. Obviously, the game will really explode if we get to the World Cup, so until we do we'll just be standing still.

Has football being seen as a 'foreign' sport in Australia held it back?
Without a doubt, but I'm glad to say that is now changing. When you go to an NSL game these days you see people from all nationalities, when previously you used to see just a couple of ethnic groups like Italians, Greeks or Croatians. It is a change for the better and means the sport can become more popular.

How did you resist the other sports and embrace football instead?
It was all down to my parents both being from Germany. My Dad was always a huge fan of the game and he played at a local level. He took me to a football game and I was absolutely hooked. From that moment, it was just football for me.



The new Wembley Stadium is getting closer. Due to be completed in the early part of 2006, it will be a state-of-the-art 90,000 seat venue and the home of the England Team, The FA Cup and a host of other major events.

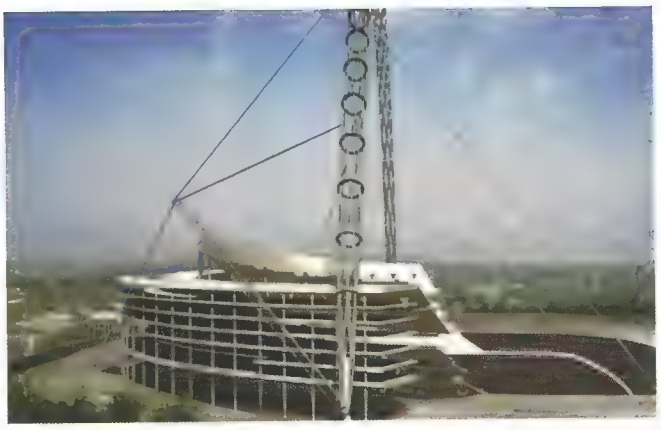
England Captain David Beckham has had a detailed presentation of the stadium and is excited by the prospect of leading the team out into the new Venue of Legends. He said: "The plans that I've seen have been amazing and hopefully it's going to be a big part of my life."

New Wembley's designers – the World Stadium Team – were the architects behind Stadium Australia in Sydney and Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, but the new Venue of Legends in north-west London is their greatest challenge yet. They have designed the stadium with the football fan in mind. There will be no permanent running track, but the venue will also be capable of hosting athletics and rugby.

Enormous progress has been made since work began in September 2002. Not only is demolition work on the old stadium almost finished, much of the foundation work for the new stadium has already been completed. Michael Cunnah, Chief Executive of Wembley National Stadium Limited, is delighted with the progress so far:

"The new stadium is going to be in a totally different league from the old Wembley," he says. "It will cover twice the area, stand four times as high and give supporters the best views and facilities in world sport. There has never been a stadium like it before. When it opens, fans will really notice the difference."

For all the latest Wembley news, visit www.WembleyStadium.com



A DOZEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW WEMBLEY STADIUM

01. New Wembley will be the biggest covered football stadium in the world

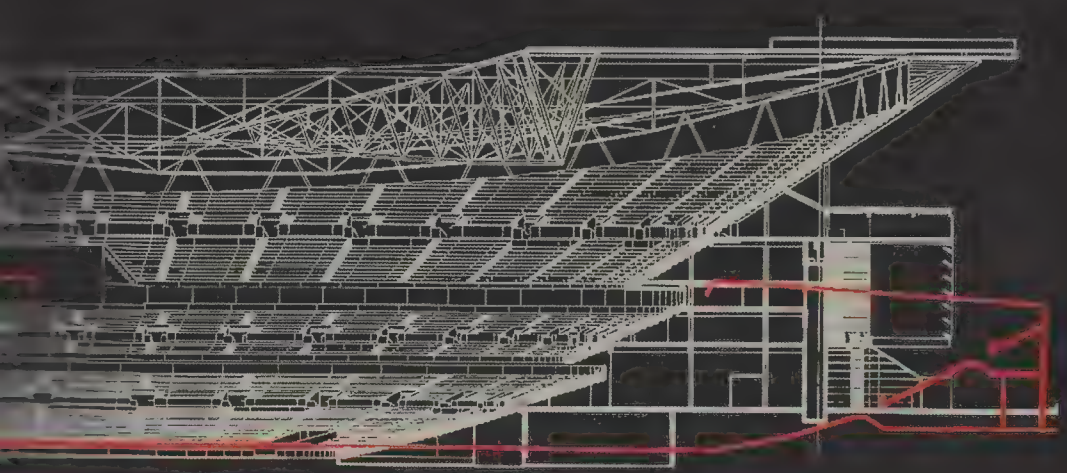
02. Every seat will have more leg room than the old Royal Box

03. There will be NO obstructed views

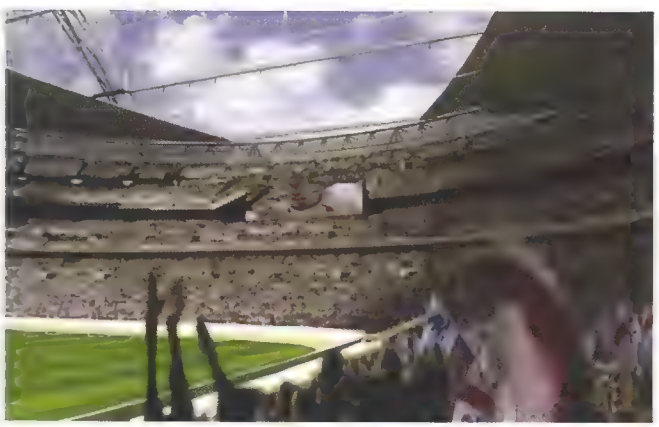
04. Public concourses around the stadium will be wider than a dual carriageway

WEMBLEY WATCH

THE NEW WEMBLEY STADIUM IS GETTING CLOSER



This scale diagram shows how much bigger the new stadium (in grey) will be, compared with the old Wembley (in red). The new Wembley stands at 133 metres high.



05. Disabled supporters will enjoy unmatched access and be able to watch events from any area of the stadium

06. New Wembley will boast 2,000 toilets – more than any other building in the world

07. A retractable roof will protect fans from the elements while ensuring a lush pitch and shadowless field of play

08. Acoustic engineering will ensure that the famous Wembley roar is louder than ever

09. You could roll the London Eye under New Wembley's 133-metre Main Arch

10. Supporting the roof, the Main Arch will replace the Twin Towers as a global sporting icon

11. Trophy-winning teams will still make their way up the steps to the Royal Box to collect their prize and their medals

12. Road, rail and tube access to New Wembley will all be improved

The Gold and

SAM PILGER DIGS DEEP INTO AUSSIE HISTORY.

Half a century after England had played in the first recognised international against Scotland, Australia made their own bow on the world stage with a friendly against New Zealand at Dunedin's Carisbrooke Park in June 1922. In front of a modest crowd of 8,000, the visiting Australians lost 3-1 to their neighbours, and in the next three weeks would play them twice more, drawing 1-1 and again losing 3-1.

A year later the Australians gained their first international victory when New Zealand travelled across the Tasman Sea. Two goals from Lennard and Maunder were enough to secure a 2-1 win at the Brisbane Cricket Ground, but New Zealand would triumph in two further games in Newcastle and Sydney.

Australia won their first international trophy, in the 1967 Vietnam National Day Soccer Tournament in Saigon

An English Football Association squad made the voyage to Australia in May 1925 for a series of games, and although they were not recognised as full internationals as this wasn't the official England team, they still managed to put a fledgling Australian side in their place. In seven games, England recorded wins of 4-1, 5-0, 5-1, 2-1, 8-2, 5-0 and 2-0. Things could only get better for the Australians.

Up until the 1960s Australia only managed to play on average one international a year, and more often than not it was against New Zealand. The first World Cup took place in 1930, but Australia waited until the 1966 tournament in England before making their first attempt to qualify. In November 1965, Australia were presented with a two legged play-off against North Korea in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh for the sixteenth and final place in England, but playing in their first full international for seven years they were slaughtered 9-2 over two legs.

There were signs of improvement when Australia won their first international trophy, in the 1967 Vietnam National Day Soccer Tournament in Saigon, beating South Korea 3-2 in the final. It was on this tour that the Sydney journalist Tony Horsted coined the 'Socceroos' nickname that has stuck ever since.

Two years later, after playing across Asia and Africa, the Australians were faced with another two-legged play-off against Israel to book a ticket to Mexico '70. The Israelis gained a 1-0 advantage in the first leg and the Aussies had to deal with more World Cup disappointment after a 1-1 draw in the second leg in Sydney.

Soccer Australia replaced Joe Vlatsis with the Yugoslav Rale Rasic as national coach and, after a three year wait for the World Cup qualifying campaign to begin, he watched his side get past Iraq, New Zealand, Indonesia and Iran to go forward to a play-off against South Korea for a place in the 1974 Finals.

Socceroo goalkeeper Jim Fraser kept his side in the game in the first leg in Sydney to claim a 0-0 draw. In the second leg in Seoul, Australia went two goals down inside the first half, but strikes from Branko Buljevic and Ray Baartz saved the day and set up a deciding game in neutral Hong Kong. With twenty minutes remaining in that decider, Scottish-born Jimmy Mackay scored the goal that clinched Australia's first trip to the World Cup Finals.

But the '74 showpiece saw them lose 2-0 to East Germany, 3-0 to West Germany, before a scoreless encounter with Chile.

The jaunt to West Germany should have been the start of regular return trips to the World Cup Finals, but just four years later the Socceroos failed to qualify for Argentina '78. They then had to watch as their neighbours progressed to the Finals in Spain in 1982.

In 1985, after navigating their way past Israel, New Zealand and Chinese-Taipei, Australia's final hurdle for a place at Mexico '86 were Scotland. Over two legs, the Scots, coached by Alex Ferguson after the sudden death of Jock Stein, proved too strong and with such greats as Graeme Souness, Kenny Dalglish and Gordon Strachan in their ranks took the tie with a 2-0 aggregate.

The Socceroos qualified for the Seoul Olympics in 1988, but the World Cup eluded them once again in 1990. Eddie Thomson succeeded Frank Arok as coach at the start of the Nineties and had the advantage that the majority of his squad, players like Robbie Slater, Frank Farina and Mark Bosnich, were now plying their trade outside Australia and gaining invaluable experience into the bargain. However, it was this talented group's misfortune to come up against mighty Argentina in a play-off for a 1994 World Cup berth in the USA.

In the first leg in Sydney, Australia bravely secured a 1-1 draw, and were holding the Argentinians at 0-0 in the second leg in Buenos Aires before a Batistuta cross took a cruel deflection off Alex Tobin to clinch the tie and once again deny Australia.

Eddie Thomson remained as the Socceroos coach for the next three years, before Soccer Australia bosses pulled off the coup of appointing former England manager Terry Venables just in time for the 1997 qualifiers.

The Venables era got off to a great start in a series of warm-up friendlies ahead of the forthcoming qualifiers. Australia won their first match over old foes New Zealand before also triumphing over the stronger opposition of South Korea, Norway, Macedonia and Hungary.

As expected Venables made light work of New Zealand (winning 3-0 and 3-0), Tahiti (winning 2-0 and 5-0) and the Solomon Islands (winning 13-0 and 6-2) to top the Oceania qualifying group, but once again a play-off, this time against Iran, stood in Australia's way of qualifying for the World Cup. A 3-0 victory over Tunisia in a friendly prior to the Iran games meant that the Socceroos had won 14 consecutive games under Venables.

the Green

Australia were brimming with confidence and this only increased when they secured a 1-1 draw from the first leg in Iran. Melbourne played host to the second leg and witnessed the home team go 2-0 up with goals from Harry Kewell and Aurelio Vidmar. Australia could almost see the promised land, but with less than twenty minutes to go the Iranians grabbed two shock goals. The game finished 2-2 and, despite not losing a single qualifying game, Australia were eliminated on away goals. "I don't think I've ever played in such a cruel game," said a shocked Venables.

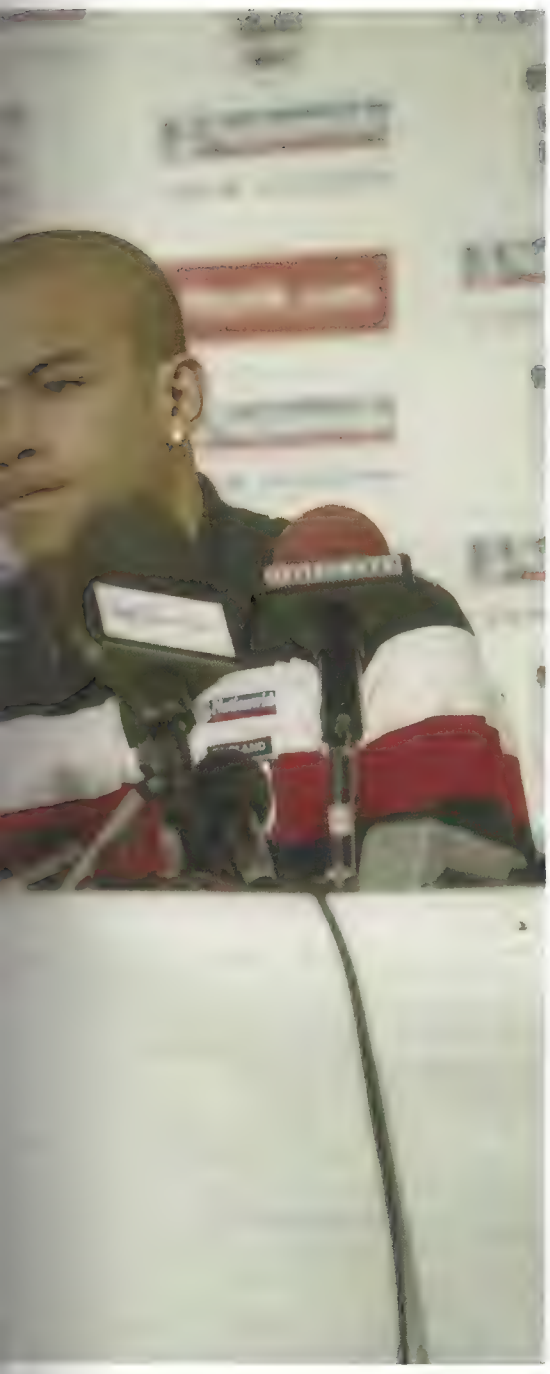
Venables gave up the post in 1998 and, after Raul Blanco had filled in, former Socceroo Frank Farina was given the task of taking Australia to the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea. He made a good start, with a fine 2-0 win over Scotland at Hampden Park. The World Cup qualifying campaign kicked off with the Socceroos running up a record 22-0 victory over Tonga, and two days later beating that with a 31-0 win over American Samoa. The rest of the campaign was easily negotiated to set up another of those winner takes all play-offs, against Uruguay. In between, Farina led Australia to the Confederations Cup where they finished third and registered wins over Brazil and the World Champions France. Another creditable result, a 1-1 draw with France in Melbourne, led Australians to believe that this would finally be their year.

Against Uruguay, Kevin Muscat gave the Aussies a first leg lead with a penalty in Melbourne, but the Socceroos were trounced 3-0 in the away leg. The dream was over for another four years and some Socceroos unashamedly wept at the final whistle.

Now for the good news. It would appear that this cycle of disappointment is about to be broken. In Madrid last December, FIFA decreed that Oceania should finally have direct entry to the World Cup Finals. After nearly four decades, Australia will at least be spared those play-off agonies and could well be on their way to Germany in 2006.

ENGLAND

Our exclusive behind-the-scenes access to all the England teams means we can introduce you to tomorrow's heroes today.



TheFA.com's Dan Freedman side by side with Kieron Dyer in Japan.

TheFA.com for England

Regular visitors to TheFA.com will know that the England team has never been far from the net in the four months since meeting Macedonia in October.

As part of our comprehensive coverage of the Three Lions at all levels, TheFA.com has taken the opportunity to speak to and profile some of the brightest young stars in the country – players hoping that their first England cap is not too far away.

One of the game's most talked about young defenders is Nottingham Forest's outstanding prospect, Michael Dawson. We caught up with the 19-year-old prodigy to ask him about his influences and heroes. "Des Walker has been a great help to me and always talks to me throughout the game," he says of the Forest skipper and former England stalwart who reached the World Cup semi-finals in Bobby Robson's classic 1990 squad. "When you see what he has achieved in the game, you listen to all the advice he gives you."

Michael's performances for Paul Hart's exciting young Forest side have already caught the eye of Sven Göran Eriksson, with the England coach inviting him to join his training get-together last November. The player Michael most admires in his position is already a key figure in Sven's squad: "My hero isn't much older than me," he says. "Rio Ferdinand is the player I look up to and most admire. He has fantastic ability on the ball, he's good in the air, and his all-round play is something that I, as someone coming into the game, very much aspire to."

Perhaps we'll find out how well Michael and Rio can play together in the future.

Another young England star beginning to catch the eye on a regular basis is Sheffield United's profusely talented midfielder Michael Tonge, currently playing the finest football of his career. He tells us that missing out at Old Trafford has only served to further strengthen his resolve to make it at the top level. "I have to be fair to Man United and say I wasn't in the best form and hadn't developed physically," admits the 19-year-old who shot to national prominence with his goalscoring exploits in the Worthington Cup semi-final against Liverpool. "I seemed to be short of stamina compared with some of the others there, but I came to Sheffield and it's worked out. I've had more than 50 first team games, while none of the Manchester United lads have got near their first team. It's all very well training with the top players, but it's only when you play in front of a big crowd that you know you can do it in a match situation. For that reason, I think you'll find a lot of young English players choosing to be in Division One."

We also met England's answer to Roberto Carlos!

Matt Taylor's performances for Portsmouth this year have been outstanding – and he made his Under-21 debut as a Three Lions substitute in Slovakia last year. But when club-mate Paul Merson compared Matt with the Brazilian World Cup winner, Matt's team-mates saw the perfect opportunity to pounce. "I first got to hear about it in the Pompey dressing-room and the lads gave me a fearful ribbing," says Matt. "I think what 'Merse' was trying to say was that I can be as influential on the left-hand side for Portsmouth as Roberto Carlos is with his teams. That's not the same as saying I am as good as him – because I am influential in the First Division and he's influential for Real Madrid."

If this young trio continue to progress at their current rate, who would bet against them making a sizeable impact for England in the World Cup in Germany, when they reach their collective peak in 2006?

We have only to look back eight months to see just what a global phenomenon the World Cup is. TheFA.com was with the England team every step of the way on the Three Lions' finest World Cup journey since 1990. When you see the way in which Becks and his team are revered abroad, you fully appreciate the impact and influence the England team has throughout the world.

The sight of Japanese fans running after the England team bus, as if their lives depended upon it, is one of many images forever etched in the memories of those who witnessed the incredible scenes in the Far East last summer. As the bus pulled away shortly after the squad touched down in Japan, Sven told TheFA.com: "This is the biggest football party in the world, this is as good as it gets."

TheFA.com brought you all the news, gossip and team info on a daily basis, direct from the team base on Awaji Island – and we'll continue to do so for every England game along the road to Portugal 2004.

Don't miss your opportunity to get all the exclusive and official news about Sven and the boys, and the chance to get to know the stars of the future...check out the home of England on the net at TheFA.com

Dan Freedman, News Editor, TheFA.com

We have only to look back eight months to see just what a global phenomenon the World Cup is. TheFA.com was with the England team every step of the way . . .

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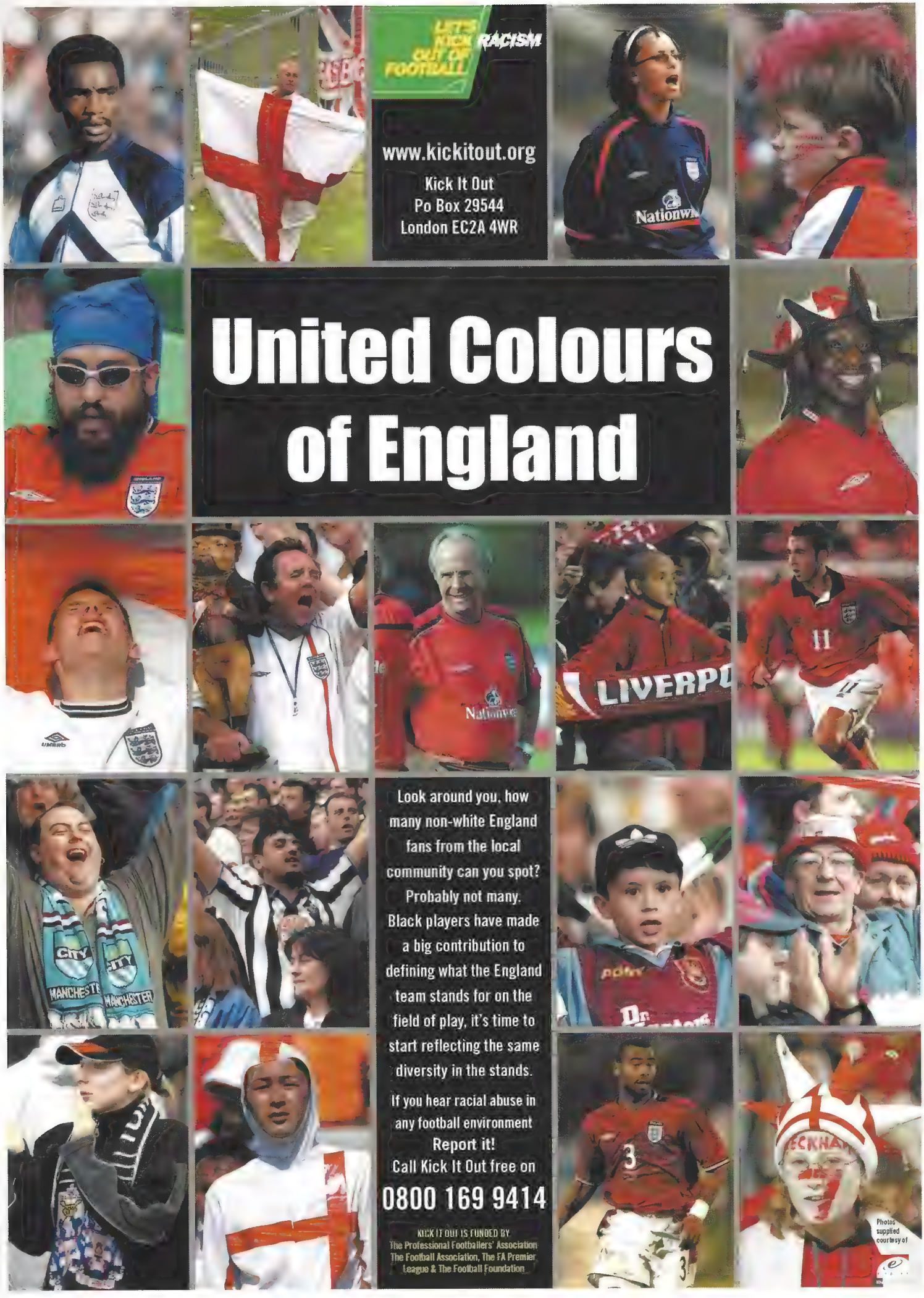
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KEY: ENGLAND'S SCORE APPEARS FIRST. ECQ=EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING, ECQP=EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING PLAY-OFF, ECF=EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS, WCQ=WORLD CUP QUALIFYING, WCF=WORLD CUP FINALS, Fr=FRIENDLY

26.6.98 v COLOMBIA (n) 2-0 WCF
Scorers: Anderton, Beckham Att: 41,275

30.6.98 v ARGENTINA (n) 2-2 (lost 3-4 on pens) WCF
Scorers: Shearer (p), Owen Att: 30,600

5.9.98 v SWEDEN (a) 1-2 ECQ
Scorer: Shearer Att: 36,000

10.10.98 v BULGARIA (h) 0-0 ECQ
Att: 72,974

14.10.98 v LUXEMBOURG (a) 3-0 ECQ
Scorers: Owen, Shearer (p), Southgate Att: 8,200

18.11.98 v CZECH REPUBLIC (h) 2-0 Fr
Scorers: Anderton, Merson Att: 38,535

10.2.99 v FRANCE (h) 0-2 Fr
Att: 74,111

27.3.99 v POLAND (h) 3-1 ECQ
Scorer: Scholes 3 Att: 73,836

28.4.99 v HUNGARY (a) 1-1 Fr
Scorer: Shearer (p) Att: 45,000

5.6.99 v SWEDEN (h) 0-0 ECQ
Att: 75,824

9.6.99 v BULGARIA (a) 1-1 ECQ
Scorer: Shearer Att: 22,000

4.9.99 v LUXEMBOURG (h) 6-0 ECQ
Scorers: Shearer 3 (1p), McManaman 2, Owen Att: 68,772

8.9.99 v POLAND (a) 0-0 ECQ
Att: 17,000

10.10.99 v BELGIUM (h) 2-1 Fr
Scorers: Shearer, Redknapp Att: 40,897

13.11.99 v SCOTLAND (a) 2-0 ECQP
Scorer: Scholes 2 Att: 50,132

17.11.99 v SCOTLAND (h) 0-1 ECQP
Att: 75,848

23.2.00 v ARGENTINA (h) 0-0 Fr
Att: 74,008

27.5.00 v BRAZIL (h) 1-1 Fr
Scorer: Owen Att: 73,956

31.5.00 v UKRAINE (h) 2-0 Fr
Scorers: Fowler, Adams Att: 55,965

3.6.00 v MALTA (a) 2-1 Fr
Scorers: Keown, Heskey Att: 10,023

12.6.00 v PORTUGAL (n) 2-3 ECF
Scorers: Scholes, McManaman Att: 31,500

17.6.00 v GERMANY (n) 1-0 ECF
Scorer: Shearer Att: 30,000

20.6.00 v ROMANIA (n) 2-3 ECF
Scorers: Shearer (p), Owen Att: 30,000

2.9.00 v FRANCE (a) 1-1 Fr
Scorer: Owen Att: 77,000

7.10.00 v GERMANY (h) 0-1 WCQ
Att: 76,377

11.10.00 v FINLAND (a) 0-0 WCQ
Att: 36,000

15.11.00 v ITALY (a) 0-1 Fr
Att: 22,714

28.2.01 v SPAIN (h) 3-0 Fr
Scorers: Barmby, Heskey, Ehiogu Att: 42,129

24.3.01 v FINLAND (h) 2-1 WCQ
Scorers: Owen, Beckham Att: 44,262

28.3.01 v ALBANIA (a) 3-1 WCQ
Scorers: Owen, Scholes, Cole Att: 18,000

25.5.01 v MEXICO (h) 4-0 Fr
Scorers: Scholes, Fowler, Beckham, Sheringham Att: 33,597

6.6.01 v GREECE (a) 2-0 WCQ
Scorers: Scholes, Beckham Att: 45,000

15.8.01 v HOLLAND (h) 0-2 Fr
Att: 35,238

1.9.01 v GERMANY (a) 5-1 WCQ
Scorers: Owen 3, Gerrard, Heskey Att: 63,000

5.9.01 v ALBANIA (h) 2-0 WCQ
Scorers: Owen, Fowler Att: 51,046

6.10.01 v GREECE (h) 2-2 WCQ
Scorers: Sheringham, Beckham Att: 66,009

10.11.01 v SWEDEN (h) 1-1 Fr
Scorer: Beckham (p) Att: 64,413

13.2.02 v HOLLAND (a) 1-1 Fr
Scorer: Vassell Att: 48,500

27.3.02 v ITALY (h) 1-2 Fr
Scorer: Fowler Att: 36,625

17.4.02 v PARAGUAY (h) 4-0 Fr
Scorers: Owen, Murphy, Vassell, OG Att: 42,713

21.5.02 v SOUTH KOREA (a) 1-1 Fr
Scorer: Owen Att: 39,876

26.5.02 v CAMEROON (n) 2-2 Fr
Scorers: Vassell, Fowler Att: 36,424

2.6.02 v SWEDEN (n) 1-1 WCF
Scorer: Campbell Att: 52,721

7.6.02 v ARGENTINA (n) 1-0 WCF
Scorer: Beckham (p) Att: 35,927

12.6.02 v NIGERIA (n) 0-0 WCF
Att: 44,864

15.6.02 v DENMARK (n) 3-0 WCF
Scorers: Ferdinand, Owen, Heskey Att: 40,582

21.6.02 v BRAZIL (n) 1-2 WCF
Scorer: Owen Att: 47,436

7.9.02 v PORTUGAL (h) 1-1 Fr
Scorer: Smith Att: 40,058

12.10.02 v SLOVAKIA (a) 2-1 ECQ
Scorers: Beckham, Owen Att: 30,000

16.10.02 v MACEDONIA (h) 2-2 ECQ
Scorers: Beckham, Gerrard Att: 32,095

Played 50, Won 21, Drawn 18, Lost 11

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YOUTH:	164	030425Y	£34.99
ADULT:	S, M, L, XL, XXL	030425	£39.99

2003/2005 OFFICIAL 1ST GOALKEEPER SHORTS
BLACK.

CHILD:	122, 134, 146, 158	030426B	£16.99
YOUTH:	164	030426Y	£19.99
ADULT:	S, M, L, XL, XXL	030426	£19.99

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BLACK.

CHILD:	B/LB	030427B	£7.99
ADULT:	M	030427	£8.99

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Home of the Hammers

ALLEN CUMMINGS RETRACES UPTON PARK'S FASCINATING PAST

The Boleyn Ground, Upton Park, home to West Ham United since 1904, has witnessed the creation of many footballing legends over the years. Yet, if not for a timely intervention by an influential member of the local Roman Catholic church, the present day site might never have witnessed the evolution of the famous East End club.

Forced to vacate their previous Memorial Grounds home, West Ham were desperately seeking new headquarters when they received an offer to use the ground of Boleyn Castle FC, adjacent to the Boleyn Castle Roman Catholic Reformatory School. Set beside the former home (not a castle exactly, but a large house with two prominent turrets) of King Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, it didn't matter that the land was actually in the neighbouring borough of East Ham. The offer was gratefully accepted and West Ham duly merged with the original incumbents, before installing a hastily-built main stand and suitable terracing to meet Southern League requirements ahead of the 1904-05 season.

West Ham's first competitive game at their new ground took place on 2nd September 1904. Watched by more than 10,000, the club celebrated the dawning of a new era with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Millwall. After the First World War West Ham joined the enlarged Second Division and, on 30th August 1919, the Boleyn Ground hosted its first Football League fixture, a 1-1 draw with Lincoln City.

Success on the field took the Hammers to the first ever FA Cup Final at Wembley in 1923, and promotion to the First Division at the end of the same season. A new double-decker West Stand was constructed in 1925 and a cover was added to the side of the ground known as the East Bank. Because of its construction of timber and corrugated iron, this new facility became affectionately known as the 'Chicken Run', which housed some of West Ham's most vocal and sharp-witted supporters for more than 40 years.

The stadium staged five FA Amateur Cup Finals between 1930 and 1937, while the final game of the 1935-36 League season, against Charlton, reportedly attracted the Boleyn Ground's highest-ever attendance, in excess of 43,500. Unfortunately, club records relating to the actual figure were destroyed when a V1 flying bomb hit the stadium in 1944 causing severe damage, particularly to the South Bank end. The Hammers were forced to play home games at alternative venues until repairs were completed.

Floodlights were installed in 1953 and towards the end of that decade the one remaining turret from the original Boleyn Castle was demolished to accommodate a new main entrance. The stadium was completely covered in 1961 with the addition of a North Bank roof. Seven years later the Upton Park faithful made a nostalgic farewell to the old Chicken Run and saw a brand new East Stand emerge in its place.

The ground's official record attendance was set on 17th October 1970, when 42,322 witnessed a 2-2 draw with Spurs. However, following general recommendations under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, and the later Taylor Report, the Boleyn Ground had its capacity reduced to just under 29,000. Club talk had turned to the possibility of relocation when, in 1991, land adjacent to the stadium became available for purchase. The West Ham board seized this timely opportunity to lay foundations for the future.

In the spring of 1993 the Boleyn Ground was transformed into a poignant and sombre football shrine following Bobby Moore's death from cancer. In February 1994 the £5.5m Bobby Moore Stand was opened in memory of the former West Ham and England captain.

In 1995 West Ham celebrated the anniversary of their formation with the opening of the Centenary Stand at the north end of the ground. More recently the old West Stand was replaced by the magnificent Dr Martens Stand, officially opened by the Queen on 9th May 2002 as part of her Golden Jubilee celebrations in east London.

During the last close season the playing surface was moved 15 metres closer to the new stand, and the pitch, now acknowledged as one of the finest in the country, was widened. With a capacity of just over 35,000, and the revolutionary capability to create a 72 room hotel from existing Executive Boxes as and when required, the Boleyn Ground is now regarded as one of the country's top footballing venues.

This evening's match will evoke great local pride. The visionary redevelopment of the stadium, now closing in on its own 100th birthday, has culminated in the reward of Upton Park's first senior international.

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England's East End Encounters

This evening's match against Australia marks a major milestone in the history of the Boleyn Ground, writes Ray Driscoll.

HAMMERS' STAR GLEN JOHNSON IN ACTION AGAINST SWITZERLAND

Three Lions at Upton Park

7th April 1982 **England U21s 2-2 Poland U21s**
England: Hesford; Ranson, Mabbutt, Reid N, Proctor, Caton, Peake, Ritchie, Hateley, Bannister (Hilaire), Davis P (Smith M).
Scorer: Hateley 5, 19

9th October 1998 **England U21s 1-0 Bulgaria U21s**
England: Wright; Curtis, Upson, Brown, Ball; Dyer K (Mills), Lampard, Carragher; Heskey (Euell), Jansen (Morris), Hendrie.
Scorer: Lampard 61 pen

12th December 2002 **England U20s 0-2 Switzerland U20s**
England: Lonergan (Lee); Hoyte (Hylton), Carruthers, Bowditch, Johnson, Clarke, Thomas, O'Neil (Howard), Cole (Ricketts), Carter (Tonge), Morgan

For many years Hammers fans have referred to their Boleyn Ground home – more commonly called Upton Park – as 'the East End Academy', and with good cause.

Over the seasons supporters here have been entranced by such luminaries as Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters, England's World cup-winning triumvirate of 1966; not to mention stars like Johnny 'Budgie' Byrne, Trevor Brooking and those modern-day maestros Joe Cole and Paolo Di Canio. Yet, considering all the good football that had been played on the Boleyn's turf, it is somewhat surprising that the Academy has hosted just three previous international matches.

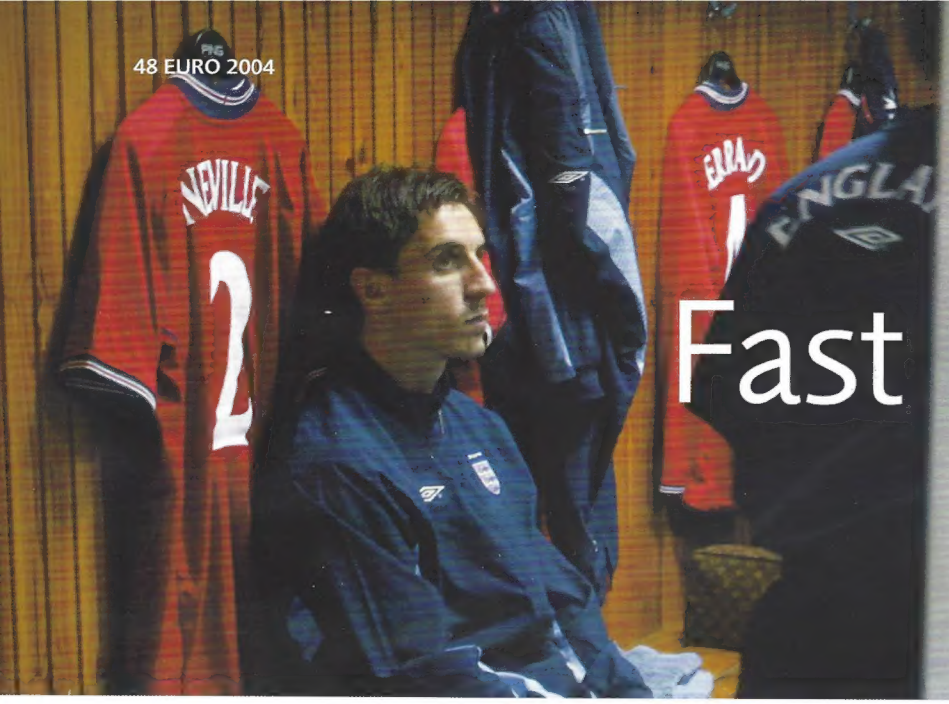
Poland were the first visitors to the Boleyn Ground in April 1982 for a UEFA Under-21 Championship qualifier. England's hero in the 2-2 draw was Coventry City's Mark Hateley who scored both goals. This clinched a 4-3 aggregate victory, as a month earlier England had secured a valuable 2-1 win in Warsaw. Victory over Poland was a crucial stepping stone in England's successful campaign which culminated in a 5-4 two-legged aggregate victory over West Germany in the Final.

Sixteen years later Bulgaria faced Peter Taylor's England in the Boleyn's second Under-21 match, a tense, close-fought encounter that was fittingly decided by a local hero. Captain Frank Lampard, then of West Ham, stepped up to score the only goal of the game, from the penalty spot, just past the hour mark. Frank later crossed London to join Chelsea in an £11 million transfer following the changes at West Ham, which resulted in the departure of his father, Frank senior, and uncle, Harry Redknapp, from the Hammers' coaching set-up. Lampard Jnr was one of eight players in an exciting England side who later graduated to full international honours.

Two months ago, the Boleyn hosted an entertaining Under-20 friendly international between England and Switzerland. A powerful England side included promising starlets such as Gary O'Neil (Portsmouth), Michael Tonge (Sheffield United), Peter Clarke (Everton), Jerome Thomas (Arsenal) and Carlton Cole (Chelsea). England had the majority of possession and created more chances, but Switzerland stunned the hosts with a goal on the stroke of half-time – Nicolas Weber planting a header beyond 'keeper Andy Lonergan.

England boss Les Reed made five second-half substitutions in a desperate attempt to turn the game around, but the Swiss caught England with a sucker punch that was a mirror image of the first half. The Swiss defence weathered heavy England pressure and, deep into the half, the visitors broke out to clinch the game with Yassin Mikari's clever chip. The 2-0 victory was the perfect end to a memorable day for the Swiss; only hours earlier the joint Swiss–Austrian bid for the 2008 European Championship had been accepted by UEFA.

Now the visit of Australia's Socceroos will further raise the status of the fabulous new-look Boleyn Ground, as the first full international to be played at the home of East End football.



Fast Forward

Next up – a trip to middle Europe followed by the Big One when England hope to see the light in Sunderland.

After this evening's friendly encounter with our friends from Down Under, Sven Göran Eriksson will reset his sights on the European Championship race.

After the stirring comeback against Slovakia in Bratislava and the unexpected 2-2 draw with Macedonia in Southampton, England simply cannot afford to fail in their quest for more points. That latter result should provide much of the motivation necessary in the games to come; the promised land of the 2004 Finals in Portugal will provide the rest.

Next up in the Group 7 campaign is England's visit to Liechtenstein on 29th March. On paper this appears to be a relatively easy task for Sven and his men. Liechtenstein got off to a reasonable start with a 1-1 draw at home to Macedonia, then came a more predictable 5-0 drubbing in Turkey. Weren't Macedonia supposedly easy fodder 'on paper'?

Four days after the Liechtenstein tie, it's The Big One in which the Third Best team at last summer's World Cup Finals take on England at Sunderland's Stadium of Light on Wednesday 2nd April. So far Turkey have have dominated proceedings in Group 7. A 3-0 demolition of Slovakia was followed by a 2-1 victory in Macedonia and that 5-0 scoreline against Liechtenstein, all earning the Turks a full and healthy complement of points.

Only France have a better goal difference (10) than Turkey (9) in the qualifying competition. Hoping to erase summertime memories of the Far East, the reigning European Champions (the first holders obliged to qualify for the following tournament) are leading Group 1. After starting their Euro campaign with a narrow 2-1 victory in Cyprus, *Les Bleus* got their act together to convincingly beat Slovenia 5-0 and Malta 4-0.

Norway are edging Romania at the top of Group 2, but Denmark are in close attendance with a game-in-hand. Romania's 7-0 away win in Luxembourg gave them an impressive goal difference equal to Turkey's nine. Things are even closer in Group 3 with Holland, the Czech Republic and Austria on six points apiece, although Austria have played one more game than their rivals.There's a surprise at the top of Group 4, in which a 0-0 draw with Sweden and two 1-0 away wins in Poland and San Marino have given Latvia the lead ahead of Hungary, Poland and Sweden.

Scotland got off to a nightmare start with a blush-making 2-2 draw with the Faroe Islands in their opening Group 5 game. A face-saving 2-0 victory in Iceland steadied the Scottish ship, however, and the four points accumulated gives them second place behind unbeaten leaders Germany. There is a fascinating battle in prospect when Berti Vogts' side meet his homeland in the summer.

Spain appear to be well in control in Group 6, with a full set of points and a game-in-hand over their closest rivals Ukraine and Greece. Northern Ireland, yet to record a victory, are in last place. Group 8 sees Bulgaria taking the early lead thanks to a clean sweep of victories against Belgium, Croatia and Andorra. Belgium currently occupy the play-off place.

The stars of the tournament so far are Wales, runaway leaders of Group 9. Away victories over Finland and Azerbaijan – and that magnificent 2-1 beating of favourites Italy – account for the current resurgence of Welsh football under the astute guidance of Mark Hughes. Italy are third, behind Yugoslavia.

Group 10 appears to be a two-horse race between current leaders Switzerland and Russia. A single point separates the two, but the Russians have a game-in-hand. The Republic of Ireland, now under new management, are next to last and without a point.

With all ten Groups scheduled for a busy time at the end of March and beginning of April, the big picture will undoubtedly change. Let's hope all the British teams will still be in the frame when the results are in.

Tony Lynch

European Championship 2004 Qualifiers	
07.09.02	Turkey 3, Slovakia 0
08.09.02	Liechtenstein 1, Macedonia 1
12.10.02	Macedonia 1, Turkey 2
12.10.02	Slovakia 1, ENGLAND 2
16.10.02	ENGLAND 2, Macedonia 2
16.10.02	Turkey 5, Liechtenstein 0

Group 7 standings as of 16th October 2002	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
ENGLAND	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Macedonia	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Liechtenstein	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
Slovakia	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Remaining Fixtures	
29.03.03	Liechtenstein v ENGLAND
29.03.03	Macedonia v Slovakia
02.04.03	ENGLAND v Turkey
02.04.03	Slovakia v Liechtenstein
07.06.03	Macedonia v Liechtenstein
07.06.03	Slovakia v Turkey
11.06.03	ENGLAND v Slovakia
11.06.03	Turkey v Macedonia
06.09.03	Liechtenstein v Turkey
06.09.03	Macedonia v ENGLAND
10.09.03	ENGLAND v Liechtenstein
10.09.03	Slovakia v Macedonia
11.10.03	Liechtenstein v Slovakia
11.10.03	Turkey v ENGLAND

Winners of the ten Qualifying Groups will join hosts and automatic qualifiers Portugal in the European Championship Finals between 12th June-4th July 2004. The ten runners-up play-off in November 2003 in five two-legged ties, with the winners also qualifying for the Finals.

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COACH FRANK FARINA
COLOURS GREEN SHIRTS, YELLOW SHORTS, GREEN SOCKS

ENGLAND

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PAUL ROBINSON LEEDS UNITED
GARY NEVILLE MANCHESTER UNITED
JONATHAN WOODGATE NEWCASTLE UNITED
RIO FERDINAND MANCHESTER UNITED
ASHLEY COLE ARSENAL
DANNY MILLS LEEDS UNITED
WAYNE BRIDGE SOUTHAMPTON
GARETH SOUTHGATE MIDDLESBROUGH
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STAN LAZARIDIS BIRMINGHAM CITY
CRAIG MOORE GLASGOW RANGERS
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LUCAS NEILL BLACKBURN ROVERS
TONY POPOVIC CRYSTAL PALACE
TONY VIDMAR MIDDLESBROUGH
MARCO BRESCIANO PARMA
SCOTT CHIPPERFIELD FC BASLE
BRETT EMERTON FEYENOORD
VINCE GRELLA EMPOLI
PAUL OKON LEEDS UNITED
JOSIP SKOKO GENK
MILE STERJOVSKI LILLE
JOHN ALOISI OSASUNA
HARRY KEWELL LEEDS UNITED
MARK VIDUKA LEEDS UNITED

LUCKY SEAT COMPETITION
All members of englandfans should keep their ears open during half time tonight. One lucky member's name will be announced, with the winner receiving a shirt signed by the England Team. If it's you, just contact englandfans by February 28th 2003 to claim your prize.